FLOWER COMICS α
フラワーコミックスアルファ

うつせもの宿 二

穂積

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Usemono Yado
volume 2 Chapter 7
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Editor hemony
QCer hemony
Shoujo Sense

Usemono Yado

2

Hozumi

flowersフラワーコミックスα

Table of Contents

[Guest 7] Alcohol 004
[Guest 8] Summer Thief 035
[Guest 9] Spring Cigarettes 065
[Guest 10] Sad Cherry Blossoms 095
[Guest 11] Forget-me-not 125
[Guest 12] Winter Incense 155

Part of the inn's staff Knows about a lot of the goings-on of the inn.

The guide who brings in guests to the Inn of Lost Things

Manages the inn. Independent and mysterious

A mysterious inn where you can surely find what you have lost. The guests are those who have passed away but still have some regrets. Guests who cannot find what they are looking for work in the inn until they finally find it.

[Guest 7]
Alcohol

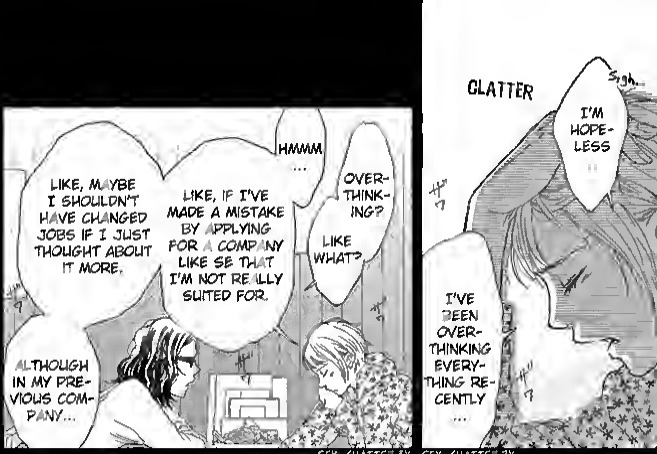
Before I knew it, I was already here.
I died, somehow.
Since some time ago, she's been looking at me from behind.

Is this woman the god of death?
Or is she the demon in disguise,
ready to impose judgement on me?
Me, who betrayed my own best friend

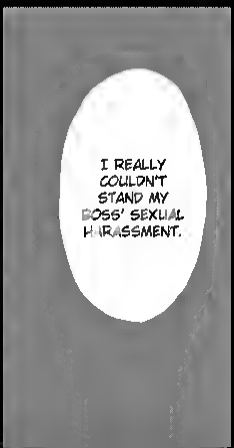
My last memory was
a Friday night, drinking with Ayako after work.
I'M SORRY I'M LAAATE!
SATOMI!
SFX: CLATTER CLATTER
SFX: CLATTER
SORRY, SORRY! DID YOU WAIT LONG?
YOU'RE SUPER LATE!!
I'M REALLY SORRY!
AH, SO WHAT ARE YOU DRINKING?
DRAFT BEER.
SFX: CHATTER 5X
SFX: GLUG 5X
THEN I'LL HAVE BEER TOO
SFX: THUMP

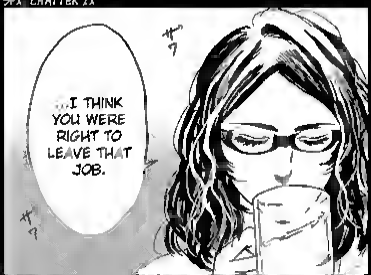
SFX: CHATTER 2X
SFX: HAAA
NOW I FEEL ALIVE AGAIN
SFX: CHATTER 2X
SO HOW'S IT GOING AS SE'S NEW RECRUIT?
BUSY?
TIRED, HUH?
TEXT: CAUSE I M THE NEW GIRL R GHT?!
SFX: CHATTER 4X
HEY.
WHAT?!
BUT HE SAID HE DIDN'T SO HE DIDN'T...
HE WAS THE ONE WHO GAVE THE INSTRUCTIONS TWO HOURS AGO!
HEY ...
HOW MANY GLASSES HAVE YOU HAD?
BUT ISN'T THAT WEIRD?!
SFX: BAM

That's a terrible way to put it
IT'S NOT BAD
OH, BUT I'M GOING TO TURKEY NEXT MONTH
AND YOU? WHAT'S YOUR JOB LIKE AGAIN?
CO~ORDINA~TING INTERIORS LIKE USUAL?
That's exactly why I'm drinking and up, I don't drink the day is never gonna end
SIX?
Kyeh~
IT'S A WEEK-DAY, YOU KNOW?
YOU'RE ALWAYS LIVING THE LIFE
UWAAA AGAIN ?!
THAT'S WHY I WORK, SO I CAN LIVE THE LIFE
NO WAY
HUH? FOR WORK?
FOR VACA-TION
SFX. CHATTER 2X
WHO CARES ?!
None of it matters!
WHAT HAS THE WORLD EVER DONE FOR US?!
TOO LOUD
THE WHOLE WORLD'S GONNA LOOK AT ME SUSPI-CIOUSLY
GAAAH. BUT I LOOK SO YOUNG... IF I TRAVEL ALONE EVEN AT MY AGE
It could be some travel to cure a heartbreak or to find myself I'm gonna be... to more in...
THAT'S AWESOME ...
I WISH I CAN GO TO TURKEY ...
WHY DON'T YOU GO?
I have some money


CLATTER
Sigh...
I'M HOPE-LESS
...
I'VE BEEN OVER-THINKING EVERY-THING RE-CENTLY
...
HMMM
...
OVER-THINK-ING?
LIKE WHAT?
LIKE, IF I'VE MADE A MISTAKE BY APPLYING FOR A COMPANY LIKE SE THAT I'M NOT REALLY SUITED FOR.
LIKE, MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE CHANGED JOBS IF I JUST THOUGHT ABOUT IT MORE.
ALTHOUGH IN MY PRE-VIOUS COM-PANY...
SFX CHATTER 5X
SFX CHATTER 2X

SFX CHATTER 2X


I REALLY COULDN'T STAND MY BOSS' SEXUAL HARASSMENT.


...I THINK YOU WERE RIGHT TO LEAVE THAT JOB.

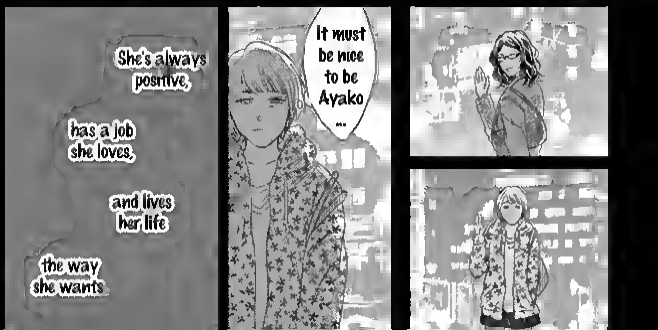
HEHE ...
I CAUSED YOU A LOT OF TROUBLE THAT TIME, AYAKO.
NOT AT ALL
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG ABOUT A COMPANY WHO TOLERATES A STALKER LIKE THAT.
NO, YOU REALLY HELPED ME OUT.
I REALLY COULDN'T DO ANYTHING.
SFX: CHATTER 9X
SFX: CHATTER 2X
I SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST FORCED IT TO STOP BEFORE YOU GOT AFFECTED.
I WISH WE WERE BACK IN COLLEGE ...
WE'D GO TO CHEAP BARS LIKE THESE WITH ALL OUR FRIENDS.
WE'D GO SEE A STUPID MOVIE EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE.
BUT NO MATTER WHAT EACH DAY WAS FUN.

THOSE DAYS...
LATELY I KEEP REMEMBERING
ISN'T OUR COLLEGE DAYS, BUT SUGITA IN PARTICULAR?
HUH?
MAYBE WHAT YOU'RE REMEMBERING.
Are you still drinking?!
That!
WHY DID YOU NEVER GO OUT WITH HIM ONCE AND FOR ALL?
IT'S BEEN 10 YEARS SINCE YOU'VE BEEN HOT AND COLD WITH HIM IN COLLEGE.
WHAT DID HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU AND SUGITA?
HUH ...?
HUUUH?
WELL... THAT'S...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ...

THERE WAS ALSO A TIME WHEN I WANTED TO BE WITH SUGITA, BUT I THOUGHT HE WAS WITH YOU SO I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT
HUH? WELL ...
I DID LIKE HIM, BUT...
WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS FOR SO LONG...
TO BE TOTALLY HONEST WITH YOU, ALMOST EVERYONE IN OUR CIRCLE OF FRIENDS THOUGHT YOU TWO WERE GOING OUT
Until graduation.
...
AND...
I'M STILL ...
A LITTLE ...
bit
WELL ...
...
I CAN'T FORCE YOU INTO DOING SOMETHING ...
BUT I HATE THE FACT THAT YOU'RE ALWAYS LIKE THIS.
SFX FSHH
MORE THAN ANY-THING ...
SCARED OF MEN ...

IF HE EVER FINDS OUT,
THAT YOU'RE THINKING OF THAT ASSHOLE BOSS OF YOURS, I'M SURE HE'S GOING TO CRY, YOU KNOW
HE'S TOO KIND-HEARTED

A CRYING SUGITA,
WOULD BE TROUBLE, WOULDN'T IT?
Ahahaha It will
And I'm not going to comfort him


She's always positive,
has a job she loves,
and lives her life
the way she wants
It must be nice to be Ayako ...

Ugh, idiot. What am I thinking...
If I was just more like Ayako,
maybe my life,
would have been so different.
Am I going to be like this forever?
...
SHOTA
I want to change..
TOOT
TOOT
RRRRR
RRRRR
Forever?

HELLO?
AH, SUGITA?
THIS IS SATOMI!
I want to change.
I want to change.
HM, ARE YOU FREE, THIS SUN-DAY ...?
I want to be more positive, like Ayako.
It's going to be fine. I'm sure Sugita also

feels the same for me.
I'M SORRY.
SFX FLICKER FLICKER
...
HUH?
SFX FLICKER
I,
NEVER TOLD YOU THIS, BUT
I'M REALLY SORRY, SATOMI.
AH... I'M SORRY.
SFX VROOM

I'VE LIKED AYAKO EVER SINCE OUR COLLEGE DAYS.
Huh?
I KNOW YOU TWO ARE GOOD FRIENDS.
No.
AND IT'S PROBABLY NOT A GOOD IDEA FOR ME TO BE TELLING YOU THIS.
Why?
BUT I,
CON-SIDER YOU,
A REALLY GOOD FRIEND.
Why...
AND I'M THINKING OF CON-FESSING TO AYAKO SOON...

"but I thought he was with you so I didn't do anything about it."
"There was also a time when I wanted to be with Sugita,"
HM?
SUGITA.
DO YOU KNOW THAT AYAKO'S HOUSE IS A CHEAP BAR?
SFX: FLICKER 2X
I DIDN'T KNOW...
NO ...
ISN'T THAT SAD?
HER PARENTS WERE DIVORCED. SHE'S BEEN POOR ALL HER LIFE.
AYAKO HAS BEEN HELPING HER OUT SINCE JUNIOR HIGH.
SO HER MOM MANAGES A CHEAP BAR.
SFX: VROOM

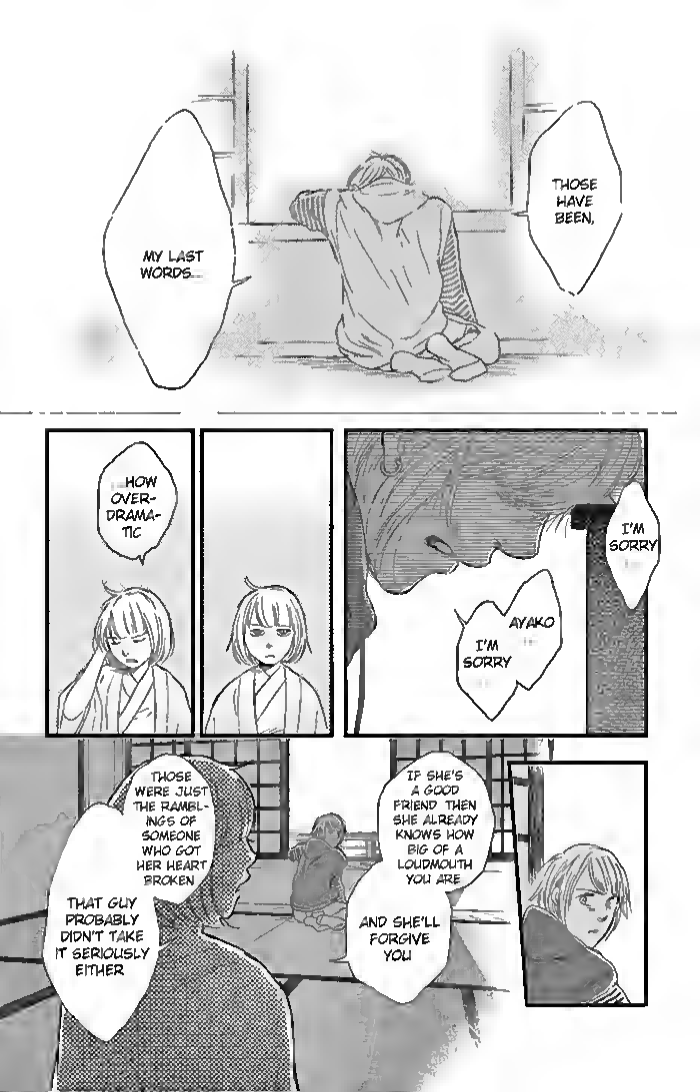
Why Ayako, of all people?

I WONDER WHAT KIND OF HELP SHE DOES IN A BAR
SATO-MI?
BUT ISN'T IT GREAT?
SHE GOT A SCHOLARSHIP ALL THE WAY THROUGH COL-LEGE, THEN FOUND HERSELF A NICE JOB
THAT'S SO HER
THAT'S WHY,
SHE LOOKS DOWN ON ME
SATO-MI-
BE-CAUSE
SHE KNOWS THAT NOTHING EVER GOES RIGHT IN MY LIFE.
SHE ASKS ME HOW I'M DOING TRYING TO LOOK SYM-PATHETIC
I BET THAT MAKES HER HAPPY
IT RE-MINDS HER OF HOW BET-TER HER LIFE IS THAN MINE
I MEAN, SHE WAS A GIRL WHO STARTED OUT WORKING IN A SMALL BAR.
SATOMI!!

I was so embarrassed I wanted to die.

SFX: CLUNK
SFX: WEE WOO ZX
I'M SORRY BUT,
I'M NOT LOOKING FOR ANYTHING.
I WONDER IF I COMMITTED SUICIDE...
I CAN'T REMEMBER MUCH. I THINK I DRANK TILL MIDNIGHT. THEN TOOK SOME MEDICATION I THINK...

I'VE ALWAYS FELT JUST A BIT INSECURE NEXT TO AYAKO BUT IT WAS NEVER A BIG DEAL
SO WHY COULDN'T I HOLD IT IN THAT TIME?
WHY DID I SAY THOSE THINGS...?
SO WHY COULDN'T I JUST BE HAPPY FOR THEM?
BOTH HER AND SUGITA WERE SPECIAL TO ME
WHY DID I DIE HAVING SAID ALL THOSE THINGS?!
AND MOST OF ALL...
Shouja Sense


MY LAST WORDS...
THOSE HAVE BEEN,
HOW OVER-DRAMA-TIC
I'M SORRY
AYAKO
I'M SORRY
THOSE WERE JUST THE RAMBL-INGS OF SOMEONE WHO GOT HER HEART BROKEN
THAT GUY PROBABLY DIDN'T TAKE IT SERIOUSLY EITHER
IF SHE'S A GOOD FRIEND THEN SHE ALREADY KNOWS HOW BIG OF A LOUDMOUTH YOU ARE
AND SHE'LL FORGIVE YOU

HUH?
BEHIND YOU.
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU KNOW?
WHAT IS... THIS?
MY PHONE
THE THING YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IS IN THERE.
NO
I DON'T WANT TO SEE IT

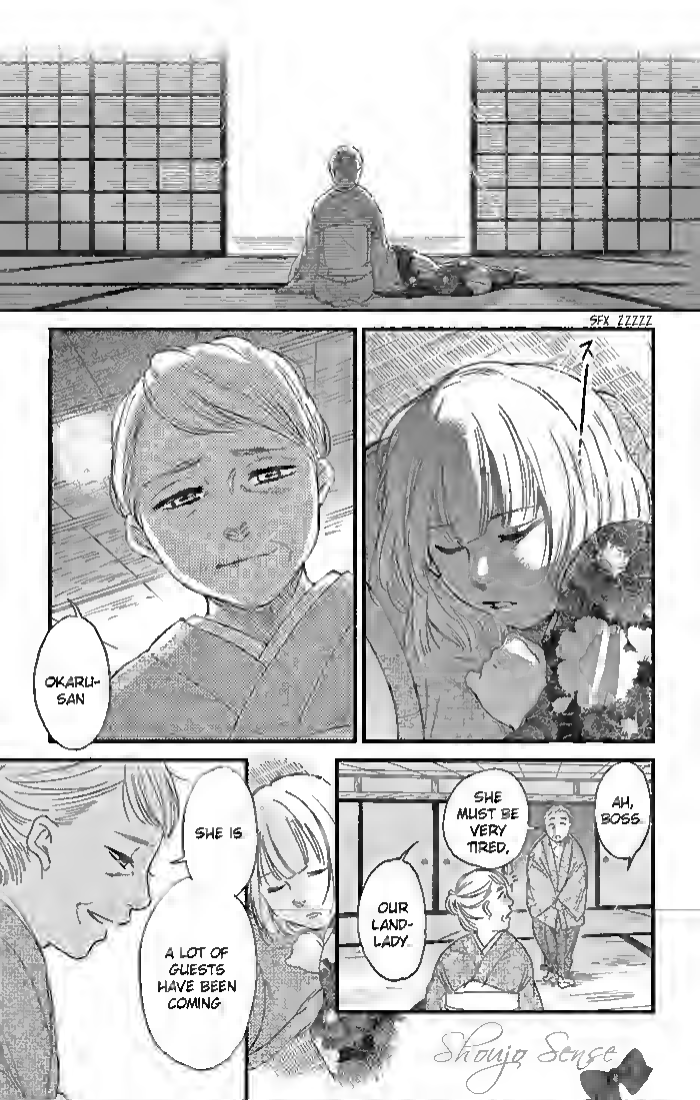
NOT WHEN ALL I'LL SEE IS A TEXT FROM THEM OR A MESSAGE IN MY ANSWERING MACHINE.
I CAN'T SEE THAT.
I HAVE NO RIGHT TO SEE THAT.
YOUR TIME OF DEATH
WAS 8:40 AM
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT...?
I DIED AT MIDNIGHT.
YOU DIED THE NEXT MORNING.
WHEN YOU WERE ON YOUR WAY TO WORK
WAITING FOR THE TRAIN AT THE PLATFORM.
YOU WERE SENDING A TEXT MESSAGE.

WAS UN-EXPECTED.
YOUR CAUSE OF DEATH
SENT MESSAGES
IT WAS A HEART ATTACK

SENT MESSAGE
TO: SUBITA
SUBJECT: SORRY ABOUT YESTERDAY
AYAKO IS AMAZING. SHE'S MY BEST FRIEND. PLEASE MAKE HER HAPPY.

SENT
I'M SO HAPPY...
I SEE...
THAT THESE...
ARE MY LAST WORDS...
I'M SO...
HAPPY...

IDIOT
I KNEW SHE WAS JUST BEING AN IDIOT
SFX HAAAAA!
REALLY
WHAT AN IDIOT


SFX ZZZZZ
OKARU-SAN
AH, BOSS.
SHE MUST BE VERY TIRED.
OUR LAND-LADY
SHE IS
A LOT OF GUESTS HAVE BEEN COMING

NO WONDER SHE'S TIRED, WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT.
SHE HAS BEEN SINGLE-HANDEDLY DEALING WITH GUESTS BY HERSELF EACH TIME...
GUESTS,
WHO HAVE DIED WITH REGRET...
IT'S HARD FOR MATSUURA-SAN TOO...
HE KNOWS HOW HARD IT IS FOR THE LANDLADY, SO HE BRINGS ALL THE GUESTS HERE PERSONALLY.
SFX RUFFLE
OUR LANDLADY IS TOO KIND...
SHE ALSO STARTED OUT AS A GUEST WHO VISITED THIS INN BECAUSE SHE WAS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING SHE LOST...
サラ…

SHE HAS ALWAYS BEEN LOOKING FOR THINGS OTHER PEOPLE HAVE LOST
BUT SINCE THEN
IS SHE
HEY
WHY IS OUR LANDLADY NOT LOOKING FOR THE THING SHE HAS LOST ANYMORE?
IS SHE REALLY JUST DOING THAT SOLELY OUT OF KINDNESS?

WOULD YOU KNOW
THE REASON WHY?
smile

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Volume 2 Chapter 3
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http://shoujosense.com

[Guest 8]
Summer
Thief

That girl,
was already here when I came to this inn.
I never felt that it was weird or wrong.
Everyone calls her the landlady.
THE LAND-LADY.
And I eventually got used to it.
I've become so used to her being this inn's "landlady".
Helping guests
find their lost things at any time, looking like a child

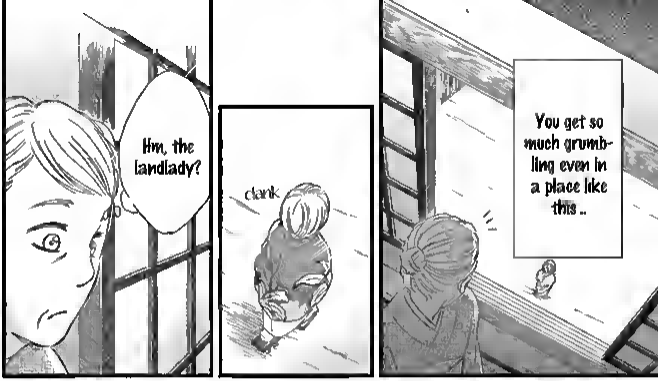
you'll see that she's
When you look at it closely,
care-free.
very
very
What the hell...
Ah, she fell asleep!
Is she just playing around...?
fwip
She can seem like a real kid at times.
So she was just playing around!
Or does this have some deeper meaning?
A paper plane...
SFX THUD!

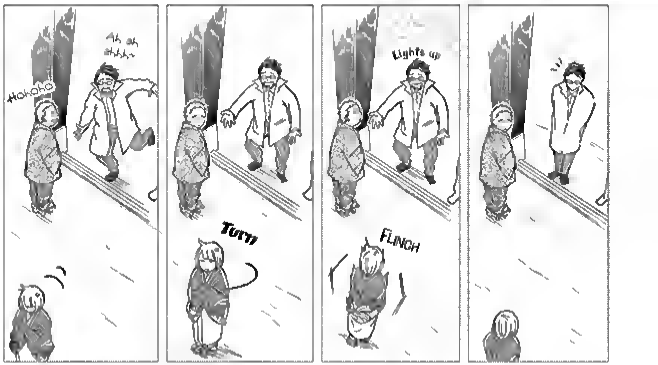
But sometimes I see her with a guest,
and I just can't possibly see her as a normal child
saying something philosophical,
having a lonely look on her face,
I mean this is a place that gathers dead people who are still burdened with regrets after all.
But then I guess,
something like that is not out of the ordinary at a place like this.

So many different people come here
and so many strange things occur.
Everyone has their own complex circumstances
When they pass through
that gate.

SFX: MIIIIN MIIIIN MIIIIN MIIIIN
AH, WE HAVE A GUEST.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
THAT'S TRUE
MATSU-URA-SAN BROUGHT HIM IN
SFX: CLICK
カラン…!
WHAT?!
HEY, HAVE YOU HEARD? THE BOSS SAID THAT THE NEW GUEST
WAS A BANK ROBBER
HE DIED FROM A CAR CRASH WHILE TRYING TO ESCAPE
THE THING HE'S LOOKING FOR IS PROBABLY MONEY, THEN
WHY WOULD WE HAVE GUESTS LIKE THAT

ENOUGH WITH THE GOSSIP!
OKAY, OKAY!
SFX CLAP CLAP
OKARU-SAN!
OKARU-SAN SURE IS STRICT
WILL DO...
A GUEST IS A GUEST, WHOEVER THEY ARE!
NOW GET TO WORK! WE'RE STARTING THE MORNING PREPARATIONS!
SHE'S MORE OF A LANDLADY THAN OUR ACTUAL LANDLADY. Hehehe
Sheesh, these kids are too much..


Hm, the landlady?
clank
You get so much grumbling even in a place like this..

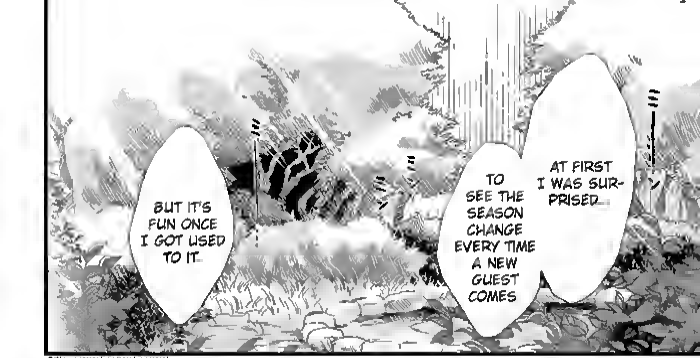

Hahaha
Ah, ah, ahhh..
Turn
Lights up
FLINCH

That man doesn't give up, does he?
Hehe
Matsu-ura-san rejected by the landlady again.

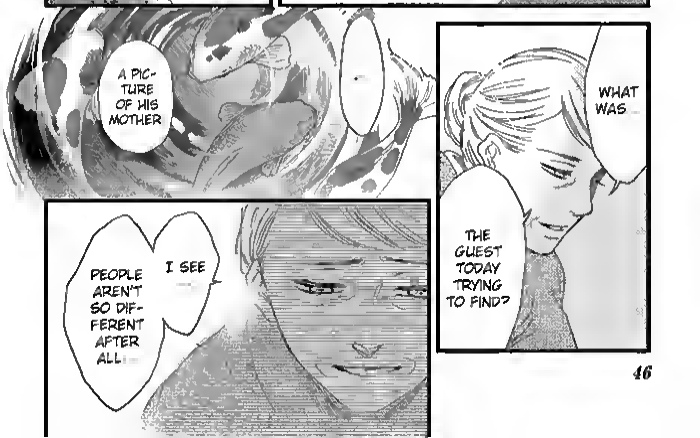
...
!
SFX: DASH
?
...JUN?
IS SOME-THING WRONG?
SFX: MUUN MUUN MUUN MUUN
TAP TAP TAP

SFX: MIIIN MIIIN MIIIN MIIIN
OH, MISS LAND-LADY.
HOW WAS IT?
stare
SFX: MIIIN MIIIN
SFX: MIIIN MIIIN
WHERE'S OUR GUEST?

SFX: MUUN MUUN MUUN
THAT WAS PRETTY FAST
I SEE
HE ALREADY LEFT
MUUN
MUUN
MUUN
MUUN
I'LL NEVER GET TIRED OF THE BEAUTIFUL SCENERY IT BRINGS EVERY SEASON.
THIS INN'S GARDENS ARE QUITE BEAUTIFUL, AREN'T THEY?
SFX: KEACH



SFX: MUUN MUUN MUUN



I JUST HEARD FROM OUR ATTEN-DANT...
HEY!
LIM, BY THE WAY,
IS THERE SOME-TH
TAO
MISS LANDLADY, DID YOU FIND FOR HIM WHAT HE WAS LOOK-ING FOR?
JUN...

THAT GUEST JUST NOW
WHO
HE WAS A BANK ROBBER, RIGHT?
DO YOU MEAN?
YEAH
HEY JUN!
WHY WOULD YOU HELP THAT KIND OF PERSON FIND WHAT THEY'RE LOOKING FOR?
YOU DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO.
...BUT WHY...
DID IT TURN OUT LIKE THIS?
I LIVED AN HONEST LIFE BEFORE I DIED.

I LIVED A FAR BETTER LIFE
THAN THAT GUY!
AND YET I CAN'T FIND WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR NO MATTER WHAT I DO.
AND NOW I'M STUCK HERE!
IF YOU CAN HELP A PERSON LIKE THAT FIND WHAT THEY'RE LOOKING FOR, THEN HELP ME TOO!
MISS LANDLADY!
I WANTED TO LEAVE THIS PLACE ...
AS SOON AS I COULD ...
JUN...

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE HERE IF A PERSON IS GOOD OR EVIL?
THE PEOPLE WHO COME HERE HAVE TO HAVE SOMETHING THEY'RE LOOKING FOR.
THAT'S THE ONLY CRITERIA
HUH?
HAVING NOBLE VALUES
DOESN'T CARRY ANY MEANING HERE
!

SFX: DASH
WHY
I'M SORRY, MISS LAND-LADY.
THAT BOY IS VERY IMPATIENT.
I'M GOING TO TALK TO HIM.
JUN!
WHY ?!
SFX: STEP
THERE'S NO NEED
!
BUT
IF THEY CAN'T ACCEPT HOW THINGS ARE,
THEN,
THEY CAN'T SURVIVE IN THIS INN
IT'S JUST THE WAY THINGS ARE
THEY DON'T NEED TO ACCEPT IT

I'M SORRY FOR SPEAKING OUT OF LINE
IT'S FINE
AH
WE HAVE FEELINGS TOO
GO
SFX TAP 4X
IMPA-TIENCE.

ENVY.
PERSIS-TENCE.
LONGING
PRIDE
DESIRE
IT'S THOSE FEEL-INGS
THAT LEAD PEOPLE TO THIS INN, ISN'T IT?
DON'T SAY IT AS IF THE SAME THING
DOESN'T APPLY TO US
HEHE
SFX TAP TAP TAP TAP
JUN

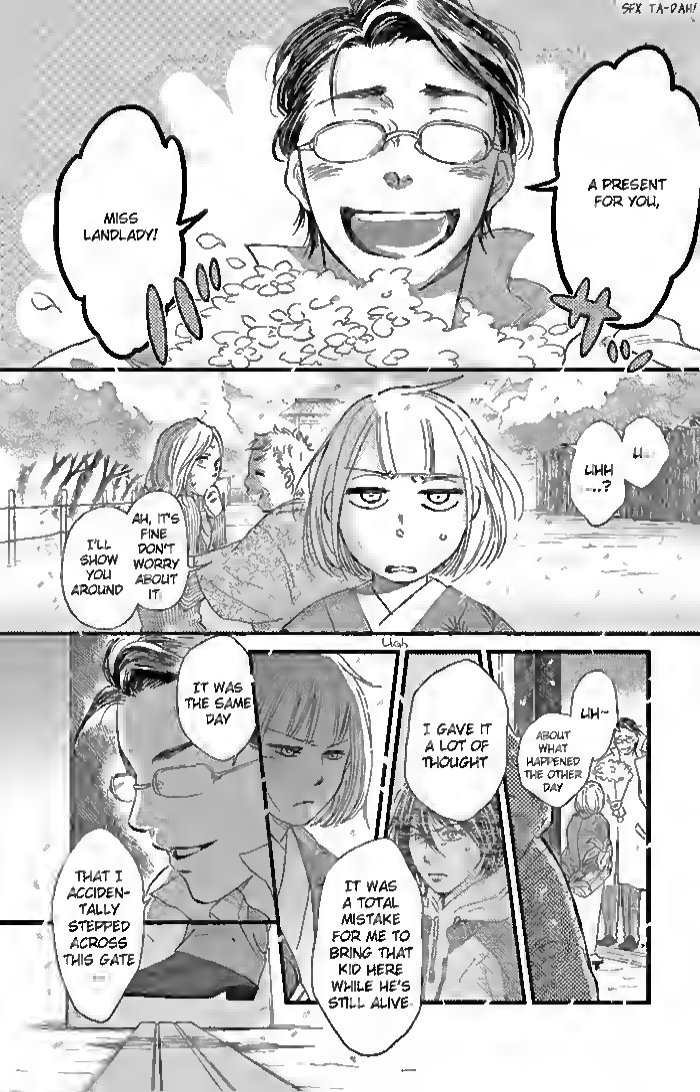
I'M NOT GOING TO APOLOGIZE,
OKARU-SAN
I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WAS STRANGE
EVERYONE WORKING IN THE INN SHOULD BE SPENDING THEIR FREE TIME LOOKING FOR WHAT THEY'VE LOST, RIGHT?
BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN HER EVEN TRY TO LOOK FOR HERS
SHE'S MAKING EVERYONE ELSE HERE LOOK LIKE A FOOL FOR SEARCHING
THE LAND-LADY...
HAS HER OWN CIRCUM-STANCES
CIRCUM-STANCES?
-Hah.
DOESN'T EVERYONE?
OKARU-SAN ..?

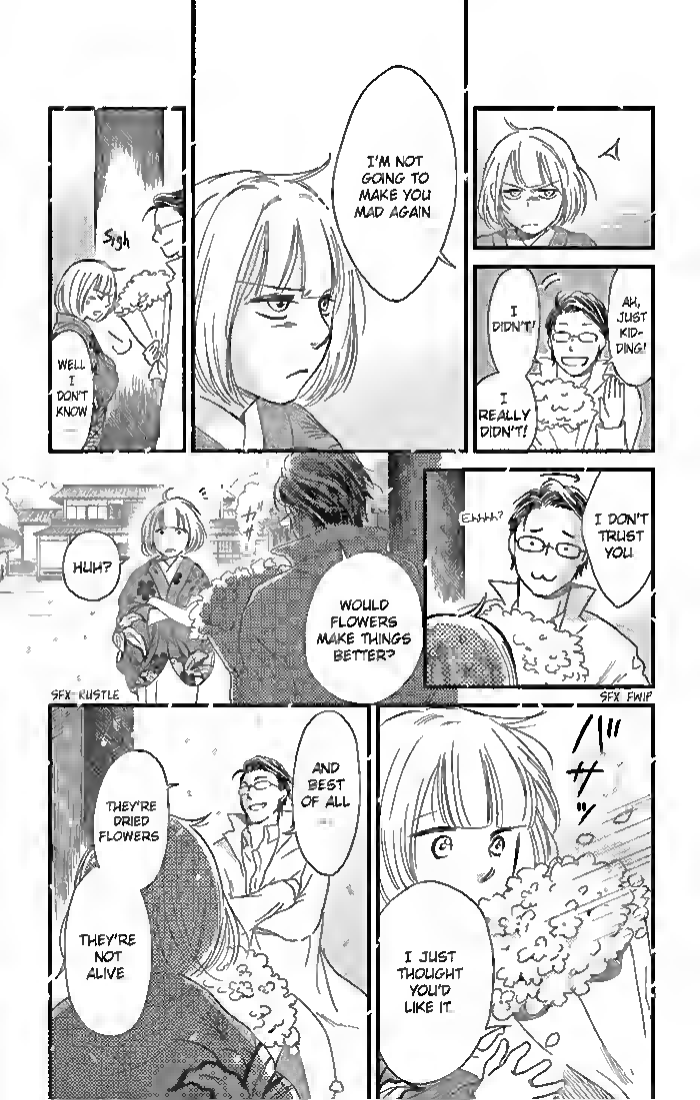
DO YOU KNOW...
WHAT THE LANDLADY IS HIDING?
YES-TERDAY,
HE ASKED OKARU-SAN WHY YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO FIND
WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR
IT'S UNDER-STANDABLE THAT HE WOULD BE CURIOUS
I DON'T CARE WHO THINKS WHAT.
WHEN ALL YOU DO IS FIND EVERYONE ELSE'S MISSING THINGS
I HELP PEOPLE FIND WHAT THEY'RE LOOKING FOR JUST TO PASS THE TIME.

Shoujo Sense

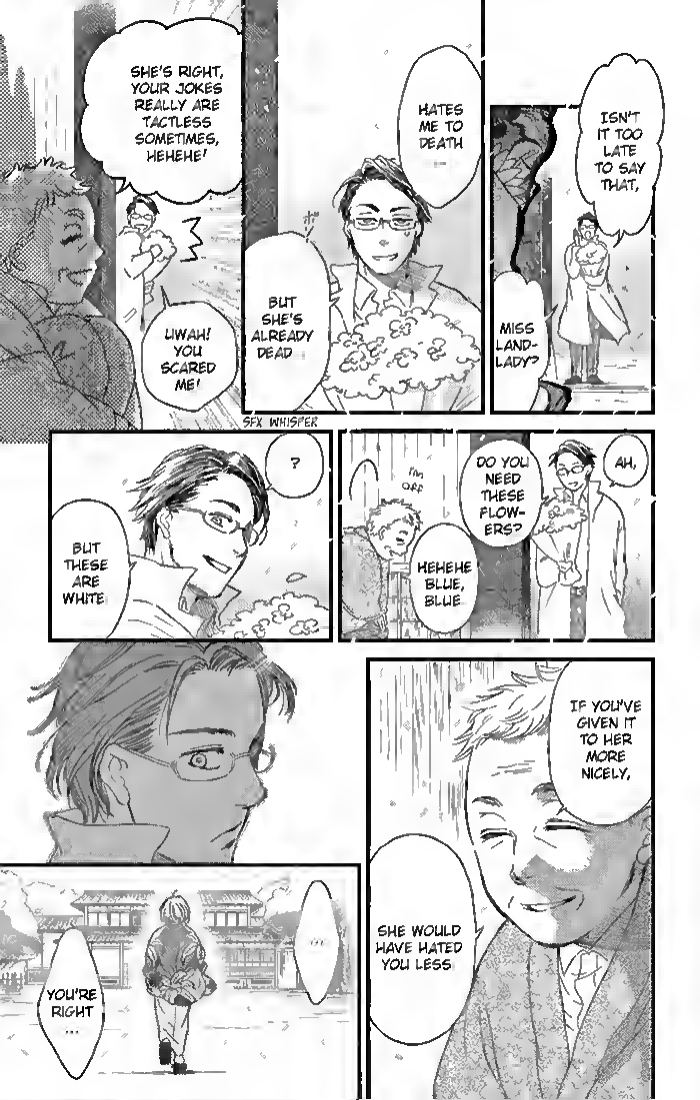
SFX: CLINK
SFX: CLINK
TO PASS TIME?
Hmph
THAT JUST MAKES HIM MORE UNBEARABLE
WE'VE HAD A LOT LATELY
MATSUURA'S WORKING DOUBLE TIME
Time to go
OH, A NEW GUEST IS ARRIVING
WHEN I, DON'T REGULARLY GO TO THE GATE,
...
WHEN MATSUURA-SAN IS THERE?
YOU SAY THAT, BUT WHY DO I GET THE FEELING THAT YOU MEET THE GUESTS AT THE GATE MORE OFTEN
HAHA-HA!

MATSUURA BRINGS IN MORE GUESTS, JUST LIKE NOW.
PFFT
THAT'S THE KIND OF ANNOYING, LOUSY GUY THAT HE IS! THAT PRICK!
So awful!
REALLY ANNOYING,
THAT IS.. THAT IS..
Heh heh
AND LOUSY, HUH


SFX TA-DAH
A PRESENT FOR YOU,
MISS LANDLADY!
UHH ...?
AH, IT'S FINE DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I'LL SHOW YOU AROUND
Ugh
UH~
ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED THE OTHER DAY
I GAVE IT A LOT OF THOUGHT
IT WAS A TOTAL MISTAKE FOR ME TO BRING THAT KID HERE WHILE HE'S STILL ALIVE.
IT WAS THE SAME DAY
THAT I ACCIDENTALLY STEPPED ACROSS THIS GATE


Sigh
WELL I DON'T KNOW
I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE YOU MAD AGAIN
I DIDN'T!
I REALLY DIDN'T!
AH, JUST KIDDING!
EHHH?
I DON'T TRUST YOU
HUH?
WOULD FLOWERS MAKE THINGS BETTER?
SFX: RUSTLE
SFX: FWIP
THEY'RE DRIED FLOWERS
THEY'RE NOT ALIVE
AND BEST OF ALL
I JUST THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE IT

SFX: GRRRRR
YOU BAS-TARD ....
HUH?
IS IT BECAUSE DEAD FLOWERS HAVE NO ISSUE CROSSING THE GATE?
YEP!!
I DON'T KNOW IF ALL THIS TACTLESS-NESS IS A JOKE OR IF YOU'RE SERIOUS,
BUT DO YOU HAVE ANY CLUE HOW ANNOY-ING YOU'RE BEING?
MISS LAND-LADY ?
I HATE
THAT PART OF YOU
TO DEATH!
WAH!
SFX: FWIP


ISN'T IT TOO LATE TO SAY THAT,
MISS LAND-LADY?
HATES ME TO DEATH
BUT SHE'S ALREADY DEAD
SHE'S RIGHT, YOUR JOKES REALLY ARE TACTLESS SOMETIMES, HEHEHE!
UWAH! YOU SCARED ME!
SFX: WHISPER
AH,
DO YOU NEED THESE FLOWERS?
HEHEHE BLUE, BLUE
?
BUT THESE ARE WHITE
IF YOU'VE GIVEN IT TO HER MORE NICELY,
SHE WOULD HAVE HATED YOU LESS
...
YOU'RE RIGHT ...

BUT...
NO MATTER HOW NICE I AM, I'M NEVER GOING TO REACH HER
SO I'D RATHER LEAVE A STRONG IMPRES-SION.
EVEN IF,
SHE HATES ME
WELL THEN,
SEE YA.
I HAVE TIME, AFTER ALL
BUT I'M PATIENT
CLUNK
IMPA-TIENCE

ENVY
LONG-ING
PRIDE
PERSIS-TENCE.
DESIRE
LOVE.
IT'S THOSE FEELINGS
THAT LEAD PEOPLE TO THIS INN
HUH?

W...
WAIT A MINUTE, OKARU-SAN...
YOU MEAN THE LANDLADY
YES.
SHE IS THE ONLY PERSON
IN THIS INN
WHO DOESN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM WHEN SHE WAS ALIVE...

Please support the author by buying the manga when/if it's available in your region.
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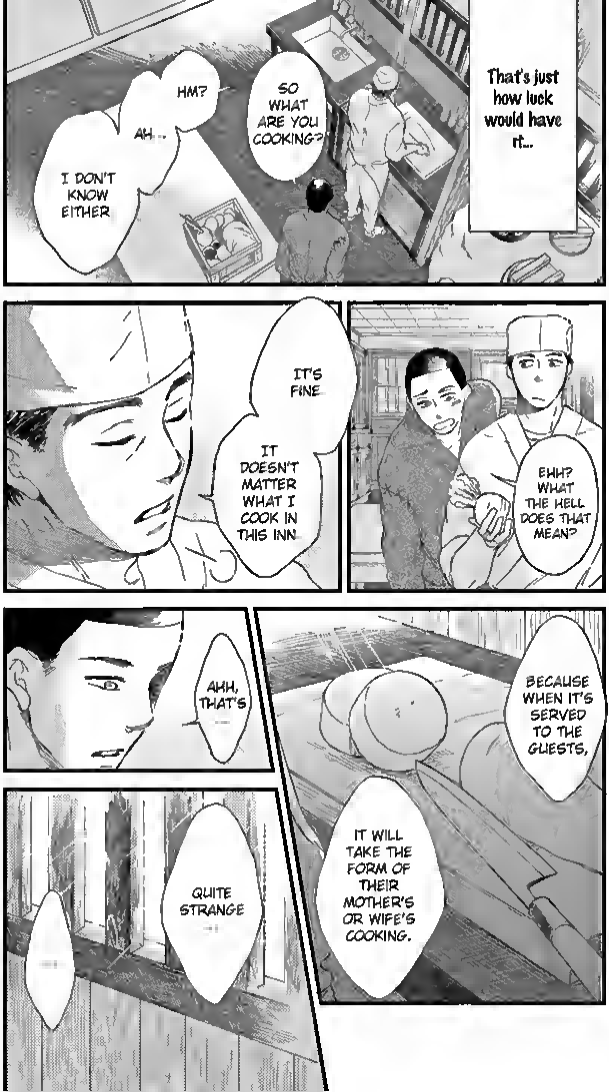
Volume 2 Chapter 9
Provider: amtt
Translator: Den
Proofreader: Mai
Editor: hemony
QCer: hemony
Shoujo Sense
http://shoujosense.com

Chapter 9
Spring Cigarettes
This is the story of Sakurai Keiichiro.
トン トン
トン トン
SFX: TAKTAKTAK ZA
He works at the Inn of Lost Things as a cook, and singlehandedly prepares meals for all the guests that arrive.
The head chef
トン
トン
SFX: TAKTAK

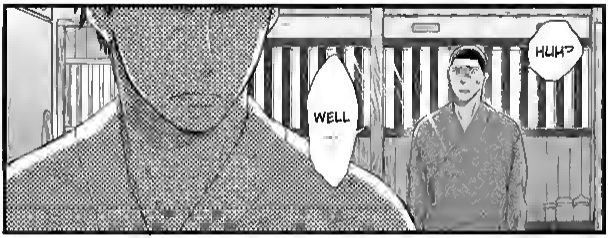
SFX CHIK
When he was alive,
he was a scriptwriter for an unpopular TV drama.
He was originally a guest at this inn.
But,
the longer he stays here,
the less he cares about finding the thing that he's missing.
Because he's already dead.
And what's the point of being able to find something now?
While lost in his thoughts, he never noticed that something that he never expected
was about to occur...
...or something like that.

A scene that starts with a monologue...
Nah, that's a terrible setup It's too suggestive for a monologue.
SAKURAI-SAN!

SAKURAI-SAN!
HM?
And what's going to "occur" in the first place?
I can't start with the foreshadowing if there's no payoff..
SFX TAKTAK
HEY, JUN.
I'VE BEEN CALLING YOU
AH, SORRY
YOU'RE STILL THE SAME AS ALWAYS
When I was alive,
I had a job that kept me back and forth between fantasy and reality
Now, I'm stuck between living and dying
SO YOU REALLY CAN'T HEAR PEOPLE CALLING OUT TO YOU?
HAHA SORRY, SORRY


That's just how luck would have it...
SO WHAT ARE YOU COOKING?
HM?
AH...
I DON'T KNOW EITHER
EHH? WHAT THE HELL DOES THAT MEAN?
IT'S FINE
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT I COOK IN THIS INN
BECAUSE WHEN IT'S SERVED TO THE GUESTS,
AHH, THAT'S
IT WILL TAKE THE FORM OF THEIR MOTHER'S OR WIFE'S COOKING.
QUITE STRANGE

HUUUH? WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SAYING?
YOU WEREN'T EVEN A CHEF BEFORE, RIGHT?
SFX: FWIF
EH? WHY?
HALF-PEOPLE AREN'T ALLOWED TO COOK IN THE DIVINE KITCHEN.
LET ME COOK SOMETHING THEN!
WELL,
NO WAY.
THAT'S PERFECT THEN!!
HUH?
Just cooked enough for myself at work.
YEAH, I DIDN'T EVEN LIKE COOKING ...
I WANT TO RE-MEMBER MY PAST JOB...
AND THEN WHAT?
JUST FOR ONE OR TWO GUESTS?
I HAVE SO MUCH FREE TIME I WANNA DO SOMETHING!
SO I CAN COOK, RIGHT~?


WELL...
HUH?

RETURN?
TO WHERE?
CAUSE IT WILL BE USE-FUL...
THAT'S
WHEN I RETURN

I'VE STAYED HERE LONG ENOUGH THAT SOMETIMES I FORGET,
THAT I'M DEAD
YOU'RE RIGHT...
AH... YEAH

SOMEWHERE IN MY HEART, I JUST HAVE THIS BELIEF,
THAT I CAN GO BACK HOME WHEN I FIND WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR.
SO I'VE BEEN DESPERATELY SEARCHING FOR IT...
ON THE OFF CHANCE THAT I'LL FIND IT
BUT THEN THERE'S NO PLACE TO RETURN TO, AFTER ALL
HUH?
I THINK IT'S NICE THAT YOUR LIFE IS SOMETHING THAT YOU WOULD WANT TO GO BACK TO...
MAYBE CAUSE YOU'RE STILL YOUNG... IT'S VERY UNFORTUNATE
BUT TO HAVE THAT KIND OUTLOOK ON YOUR LIFE EVEN IF IT WAS SHORT,
YOUR LIFE MUST HAVE BEEN GOOD

BE PROUD OF THAT.
SO WHAT WAS YOUR JOB WHEN YOU WERE ALIVE?
I'VE NEVER ASKED
WERE YOU A SCHOOL PROFES-SOR OR SOME-THING?
...
whisper
I WAS JUST AN ORDINARY SALARYMAN
HM?
I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT
!
Ha!
YOU SAY THE WISEST THINGS SOMETIMES, SAKURAI-SAN.
I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT ABOUT YOU.

MISS LANDLADY!
TSUN

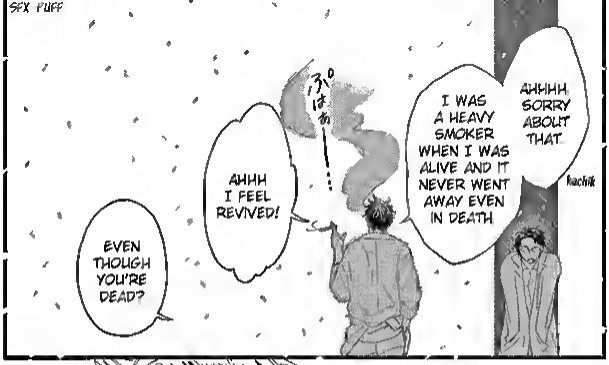
WHAT'S WRONG, JUN?
UMFF
THAT KID'S ANNOYING AS USUAL
AH...!

SAKURAI-SAN DID YOU KNOW?
ABOUT THE LANDLADY
I HEARD THAT...
JUN...?

HER MEMORIES FROM WHEN SHE WAS ALIVE ARE
I didn't know if I should tell him that I heard it from Okaru-san..
Whoa..
that must be tough for her.
That would mean that she has no hope
of ever finding what she's looking for and leaving this place...
That she didn't have any memory
BOW
Not even a clue.

Shoujo Sense

MATSU-URA-CHAAAN
THE SAME THING, PLEASE. ♥
HEY
...
AGAIN?
SAKURAI-SAN
IT'S FINE IT'S NOT LIKE CIGARETTES ARE ALIVE
SHE HATES TRANSAC-TIONS LIKE THESE
DON'T TELL THE LANDLADY, ALL RIGHT?


SFX: PUFF
AHHHH SORRY ABOUT THAT
Kuchik
I WAS A HEAVY SMOKER WHEN I WAS ALIVE AND IT NEVER WENT AWAY EVEN IN DEATH
ふぅぅぅ
AHHH I FEEL REVIVED!
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE DEAD?

YOUR JOKES AREN'T FUNNY, EVER
HEY, THAT'S RUDE
I HEARD FROM JUN

MATSU-URA-SAN
YOU KNEW THE LANDLADY FROM WHEN SHE WAS ALIVE, DIDN'T YOU?
ABOUT THE LANDLADY'S SECRET

Heh!
OHHH, A POKER FACE, EH?
LOVER-BOY
HEH... WELL AREN'T YOU A CURIOUS FELLOW
YOU'VE CARED ABOUT ONLY HER FROM THE BEGINNING
whoosh
SO ARE YOU WAITING FOR HER,
TO GET HER MEMORIES BACK?

...
BUT WHAT AM I SAYING?
ONCE YOU'RE IN THIS INN, THERE'S NO MEANING TO GETTING YOUR MEMORIES BACK.
SO WHAT IF SHE DOES?
IF I WAS LOOKING FOR MEANING, I WOULDN'T BE HERE.

WHAT?
Hoh
NOTHING
WHAT A COINCI-DENCE
I'VE WRITTEN SOMETHING SIMILAR BEFORE...
THE GIRL WHO LOST HER MEMORY AND THE GUY WHO WAITED FOR HER
THAT WAS 15 YEARS AGO THOUGH.
AH, YOU WERE A SCREEN-WRITER, WEREN'T YOU?
HM? YEAH
I FORGOT YOU KNEW THAT
スッ
SEX SLIP

HM?
AND? HOW DID IT END?
NONE OF WHAT I MADE EVER MADE MONEY THOUGH.
HAHA!

HOW DID YOUR STORY END?

TRUTH IS STRANGER THAN FICTION
YOU'VE SAID IT YOURSELF
IT IS
ANY WAY YOU CAN MAKE YOUR OWN HAPPY ENDING
THERE ARE THINGS IN REAL LIFE THAT NEVER HAPPENS IN A TV SHOW
I... I FORGOT
IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO

THERE HAS TO BE A HAPPY ENDING,
TO A STORY WHERE I CAN'T EVEN CROSS THIS GATE, RIGHT?
MR. SCREENWRITER
Stop it.
I've had it with that.

Don't ask me that after I've sold myself out as a screenwriter long ago.
HMMM...
THIS ISN'T IT...
chatter chatter
MEETING ROOM 8

Those were my final days...
THIS...
ISN'T IT...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WE'RE AIMING FOR THE YOUNG FEMALE MARKET
YOU'D SEE
HAVE TO WRITE THINKING OF OUR YOUNG FEMALE AUDIENCE IN MIND MAKE THIGS LIGHTER, MORE SHOWY
UHH, WELL...
PERSONALLY
I CAN TOTALLY SEE HOW IT WOULD END LIKE THIS
BUT THIS ISN'T THE DIRECTION OUR COMPANY IS LOOKING FOR IN A STORY
HMM
DURING OUR LAST MEETING YOU TOLD ME THAT IN YOUR LAST COMPANY YOU MADE SCREENPLAYS ABOUT SOCIAL AWARENESS
OH, DID I SAY THAT?

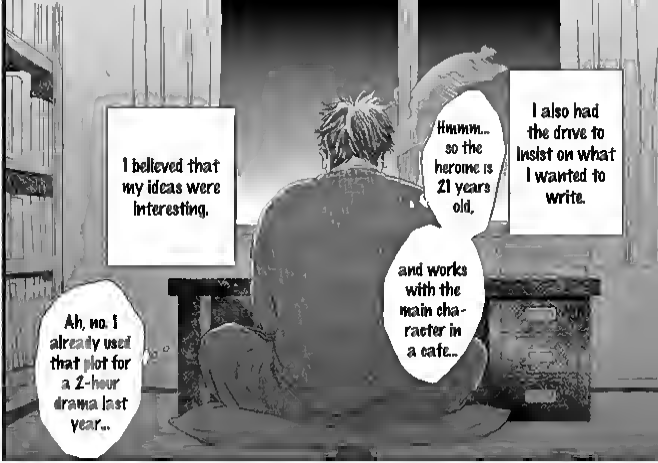
BUT SAKURAI-SAN, IT'S NOT THE KIND OF CONTENT WE EXPECT FROM YOU
If you think about it you'd understand right?
RIGHT...
THEN HOW DO YOU SUGGEST I FIX THIS...?
DO YOU KNOW THE SINGER SARASHIMA ERI? MAKE HER THE HEROINE
THE FLOW OF THE STORY IS FINE
BUT YOU HAVE TO CHANGE THE HEROINE, MAKE HER ACT CUTER.
OUR COMPANY WANTS TO SELL A 'POP' KIND OF IMAGE
EH?
HM?
BUT MY STORY'S MOTIF IS PATTERNED AFTER MACBETH, THE EVIL WIFE AND
A YOUNG AND CUTE HEROINE
RIGHT
WILL LIGHT UP THE SCREEN...
Right!
I KNEW YOU'D GET IT, SAKURAI-SAN!

SFX TAPTAPTAP
タッタッタッ
OK, PLEASE DO IT QUICKLY
TRY TO FINISH IT BY THE START OF NEXT WEEK!
CLENCH
It happens every time.
These feelings will dissipate in time.
I'll just have to do what I was told.
Calm down.
Don't overthink it.
Do as I'm told and don't overthink it...
AHHH IT'S NO GOOD
IT'S OVER FOR SAKURAI

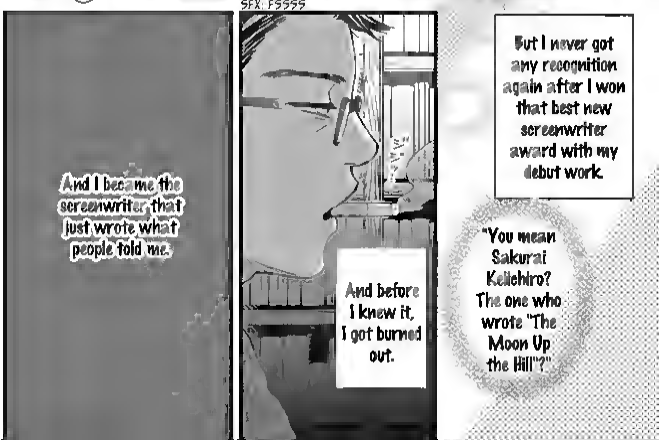
SAKURAI?
YOU MEAN SAKURAI KEIICHIRO?
THE ONE WHO WROTE "THE MOON UP THE HILL"?
WASN'T HE THE MYSTERY SCRIPTWRITER WHO DEBUTED 15 YEARS AGO WITH A LOT OF FANFARE?
YEA, THAT'S HIM! I HAVE A ONE-HIT WONDER ON MY HANDS!
THE ONLY THING GOOD ABOUT HIM IS HE'S QUICK WITH DEADLINES
HEH!
HE HASN'T MADE A HIT AFTER THAT THOUGH
HE'S JUST A UTILITY MAN.
YOU SOUND EAGER ABOUT YOUR FIRST PRODUCING JOB KUSAKABE-CHAN!
I ABSOLUTELY HATE HIM
HE'S THE TYPE THAT JUST MAKES THE SAME THING OUT OF HABIT
OOOH, THAT WAS BLUNT
AND HE HAS THAT FAKE SMILE PLASTERED ON HIS FACE NO MATTER WHAT YOU TELL HIM.
WAIT, HEY.

THE DEAD-LINE,
!
SAKURAI-SAN...
IS NEXT WEEK, RIGHT?
—
OKAY THEN.
YEAH
AH...
HE'S NOT EVEN GONNA SAY ANY-THING?
THE PRIDE OF THAT GUY...

SFX: TAP 5X
SFX: TAP TAP
Long ago,
SFX: TAP
there were a lot of things I wanted to write.

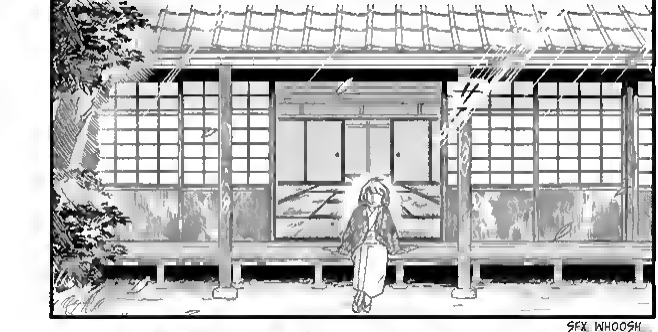

I believed that my ideas were interesting.
Hmmm... so the herome is 21 years old,
I also had the drive to insist on what I wanted to write.
and works with the main character in a cafe...
Ah, no. I already used that plot for a 2-hour drama last year...

SFX: TAP
Nah. I used that idea last year too.
Hm, what about the girl seeing the guy in the meeting room of the new company she works for ...

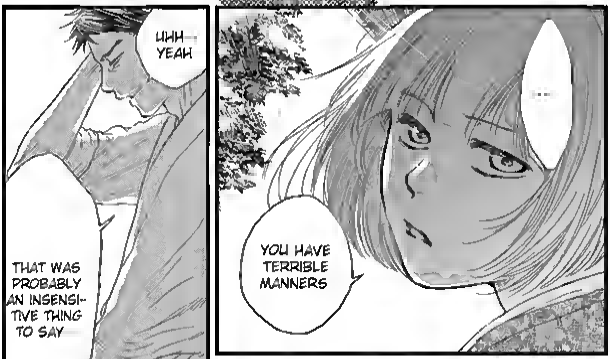

SFX: FSSSS
And I became the screenwriter that just wrote what people told me.
And before I knew it, I got burned out.
But I never got any recognition again after I won that best new screenwriter award with my debut work.
"You mean Sakurai Kelichiro? The one who wrote "The Moon Up the Hill"?"

the passion I had back then
I can't even remember
Sudou...
SAKU-RAI-SAN
I really want a role on this!
This is great, Sakurai-san!
SAKURAI-SAN!

YOU WERE OFF IN YOUR OWN WORLD AGAIN.
GET YOURSELF TOGETHER~
GEEZ~
UHH
WHAT DO YOU MEAN JUST FOR A BIT?
SAKURAI-SAN?!
JUST FOR A BIT.
HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
YOU'VE REALLY BEEN ACTING STRANGE LATELY


SFX: WHOOSH

HEY
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO NOT HAVE ANY MEMORIES?


UHH... YEAH
THAT WAS PROBABLY AN INSENSITIVE THING TO SAY
...
YOU HAVE TERRIBLE MANNERS

SFX: WHOOSH
BUT TELL ME.
HOW CAN I BE LIKE YOU,
AND FORGET EVERYTHING IN MY PAST LIFE?
I DON'T
WANT TO REMEMBER ANYTHING ANYMORE.

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SFX: CHATTER 3X

[Guest 10] Sad Cherry Blossoms

chatter
Excuse me
Hahaha
chatter
Gah!
HM? BUT A SAD STORY IS GOOD, ISN'T IT?
A WOMAN WHO LOSES HER MEMORIES AND THE MAN WHO WAITS FOR HER
IT'S A BIT CLICHE, THOUGH.
YOU'RE CREEPY!
THAT'S SOMETHING YOU WOULD SAY,
AS AN UP-AND-COMING SCREENWRITER, SAKURAI KEIICHIRO
I CAN'T DECIDE IF IT'S GOOD OR BAD
BUT THIS ENDING...
BUT THAT'S HOW LOVE IS, ISN'T IT?

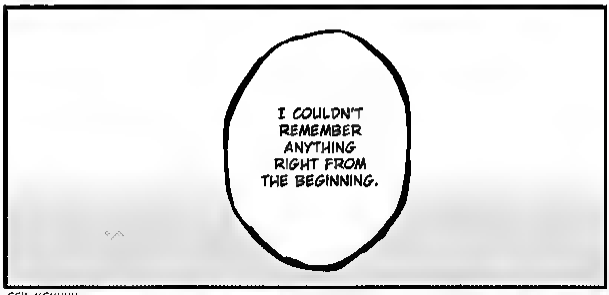
SUIDOU,
YOU SHOULD PLAY THE MALE LEAD.
EH?
BUT THIS IS FOR TV, ISN'T IT?
YEAH
I GOT SUCH GOOD REVIEWS FROM "THE HILL UP THE MOON" THAT AFTER THAT I WAS BASICALLY ABLE TO WRITE WHATEVER I WANT.
I'M GONNA SHOW THIS TO A PRODUCER SOON. I'M GONNA TELL HIM ABOUT YOU THEN.
I'LL SAY I ALREADY HAVE A GOOD ACTOR IN MIND
WELL
I'M HAPPY THAT YOU'RE HELPING ME OUT, BUT
I'M NOT HELPING YOU OUT.
I WANT YOU
FOR THE ROLE
BUT... I GUESS, YOU'RE RIGHT.
chatter
chatter
...
HAHA, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, IDIOT...
THIS ROLE CAN'T BE PLAYED BY ANYONE BUT ME.

Sudou is a good friend of mine. He has been playing the roles I've written for our small theater group since we were schoolkids.
"I.."
"want to play this role..."

That was always how it was between us.

What can I do to forget everything about you?
I don't want to remember anything anymore.
SFX KSHHH
HOW STUPID

BUT YOU...
THAT'S TRUE EVEN IF YOU'RE ALIVE OR DEAD
YOU CAN'T CHANGE THE PAST.


I COULDN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING.

SFX KSHHHH

SAKU-RAI.
WHAT I DO KNOW IS, IF YOU REMEM-BER MORE YOU'RE GOING TO BE LEAV-ING THIS PLACE,
EVEN I,
DON'T KNOW WHY.
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

DO YOU WANT TO FIND IT?
HUH?
YOU ALWAYS SAID,
THAT FINDING WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR DOESN'T HOLD ANY MEANING FOR YOU, RIGHT?
AND THAT'S WHY YOU'VE STAYED HERE FOR AS LONG AS YOU HAVE
VOLUN-TARILY
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY..?
slip
WOULD YOU WANT TO FIND WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR,
EVEN IF IT HAS NO MEANING FOR YOU?

SAKURA!...
SFX: KSHHHHH
WHAT
...IS THIS ALL ABOUT...
I've wanted to forget the past...
MEETING ROOM B-6
I CAN'T USE THIS.
clatter
clatter
do the flashbacks to my past never stop...?
But then why,

SFX: CLATTER
EH ..
WAIT A MINUTE!
WELL, IF YOU COMPLETELY CHANGE THE ENDING, MAYBE WE COULD...
HUH?
THE ENDING'S TERRIBLE
SFX: RUSTLE
SOME VIEWERS MAY NOT LIKE THE ENDING, BUT...
THIS STORY LEADS TO THAT END!
HUH ...
YES, OUR STATION DID BUY YOUR "MASTERPIECE", "THE MOON UP THE HILL"
AREN'T YOU A LITTLE MISTAKEN?
SAKURAI-KUN.
BUT JUST BECAUSE YOU WON AN AWARD DOESN'T MEAN THAT WE'RE GOING TO GO AHEAD WITH ANY SCRIPT YOU MAKE
SO IT BOTHERS ME THAT YOU KEEP BRINGING THESE STORIES THAT HAVE NO CHANCE OF GETTING GOOD RATINGS
YOU WON'T TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY, RIGHT?

In the end, my script was never used.

After a while, I gave in and ended up being a scriptwriter who just followed orders from the studio.

Sudou, being true to himself, continued acting in original productions, but got no other parts on TV or movies aside from minor roles.

And then, 7 years after that night we drank together...

Sudou quit being an actor.

HEY! WHAT THE HELL IS HAPPENING?! WE STILL DON'T HAVE THE SCRIPT FOR EPISODE 6!
I CAN'T
WE'RE FILMING IT SOON!
GET A HOLD OF SAKURAI !!
SFX: SLAM!
SFX: RRRRRRRR XH
BUT THIS IS SAKURAI-SAN'S STORY..
I DON'T CARE! HE'S JUST A NAME!
HEY! GO FIND A RE-PLACEMENT SCRIPT-WRITER RIGHT NOW!
I'M SURE THERE'S SOME-ONE WHO CAN DO IT!
DID THAT BASTARD RUN AWAY?!
RRRRRR
WE'VE BEEN CORRECTING HIS WORKS FROM THE VERY BEGINNING!
IT'S NOT JUST HIS STORY!!
RRRRRR

THESE
MAIL FROM SAKURAI-SAN...
WE JUST RE-CEIVED
UMM~
WHAT ?!
ARE THE SCRIPTS FROM EPISODE SIX UNTIL THE LAST EPISODE...
AREN'T THEY...?
SFX FWOOOSH

I've continued writing for 3 years after Sudou quit acting.
I'M SORRY SAKURA!
I'M SORRY.
STRANGELY FEEL
THAT IT'S OVER FOR ME
I JUST
Sudou was crying on his last phone call
"Aren't you a little mistaken?"
There was nothing I could say to that.
IF THERE IS ONE THING I REGRET...
IT'S NOT BEING ABLE TO PLAY THE ROLE YOU WROTE FOR ME...
beep

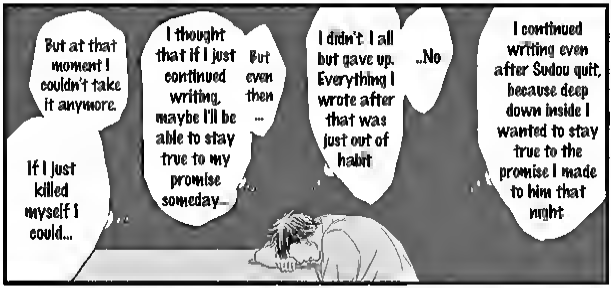
"I lost all pride."
"In the end, I was just their regular handy-man"
SFX: DROP

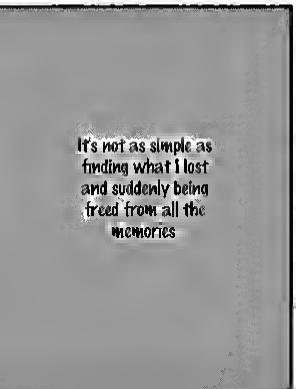
SFX: FLICKER FLICKER

SUDOU...

I,
DID MY BEST, DIDN'T I?
SFX FLICKER

WHAT IS BOTHERING HIM...
SA-KURAI-SAN


But at that moment I couldn't take it anymore.
If I just killed myself I could...
I thought that if I just continued writing, maybe I'll be able to stay true to my promise someday...
But even then...
I didn't. I all but gave up. Everything I wrote after that was just out of habit
...No
I continued writing even after Sudou quit, because deep down inside I wanted to stay true to the promise I made to him that night


It's not as simple as finding what I lost and suddenly being freed from all the memories

Damn...
Why do I keep lingering on this...!

No...
The more I want to forget, the more I remember.
Haven't I suffered enough pain?
In living and even in death.
So please forgive me,
and let me forget all this...
ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH THAT?
!

ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH FORGETTING EVERY-THING?
WHA..
WHAT...
I WANT TO FORGET
YES.
SO IF I CAN FORGET MY MEMORIES JUST LIKE YOU...
I DON'T MIND.
ALL MY MEMORIES HAVE DONE IS CAUSE ME MORE PAIN.
I'M SICK OF IT EVEN IN DEATH IT FOLLOWS ME AROUND.
I'M SO SICK OF IT.
NOT BEING ABLE TO LEAVE THIS INN ANYM
I REALLY CAN'T RE-MEMBER ANYTHING.

ALL THE MEMO-RIES I EVER HAD.
NOT A THING.
MY HOPES AND DREAMS
THE PEOPLE I SHOULD HAVE MET.

BUT IT'S...
AND I'M PRETTY CONTENT WITH STAYING HERE.
SO I WAS NEVER TOR-MENTED BY PAINFUL MEMORIES LIKE YOU HAVE.

YOU...
BUT YOU'RE DIFFERENT.
SELFISH.

YOU REMEMBER, RIGHT? SAKURAI KEIICHIRO.
A blank manuscript paper?
WHAT
!
HUH?
THAT'S WHY,
YOU'VE STAYED HERE FOR SO LONG.
SO THAT YOU CAN REMEMBER,
EVERY SINGLE WORD

OR AM I WRONG?
SCRIPTWRITER.

That's right.

I remember.
Exactly every single word.
I've never forgotten a single thing.
The flow of the story. The ending.

Even if it's all meaningless.
Even if I've done it before.
If I can,
I want to at least
remember the feeling

of writing that screenplay.
THAT IS WHAT YOU WERE LOOK-ING FOR.

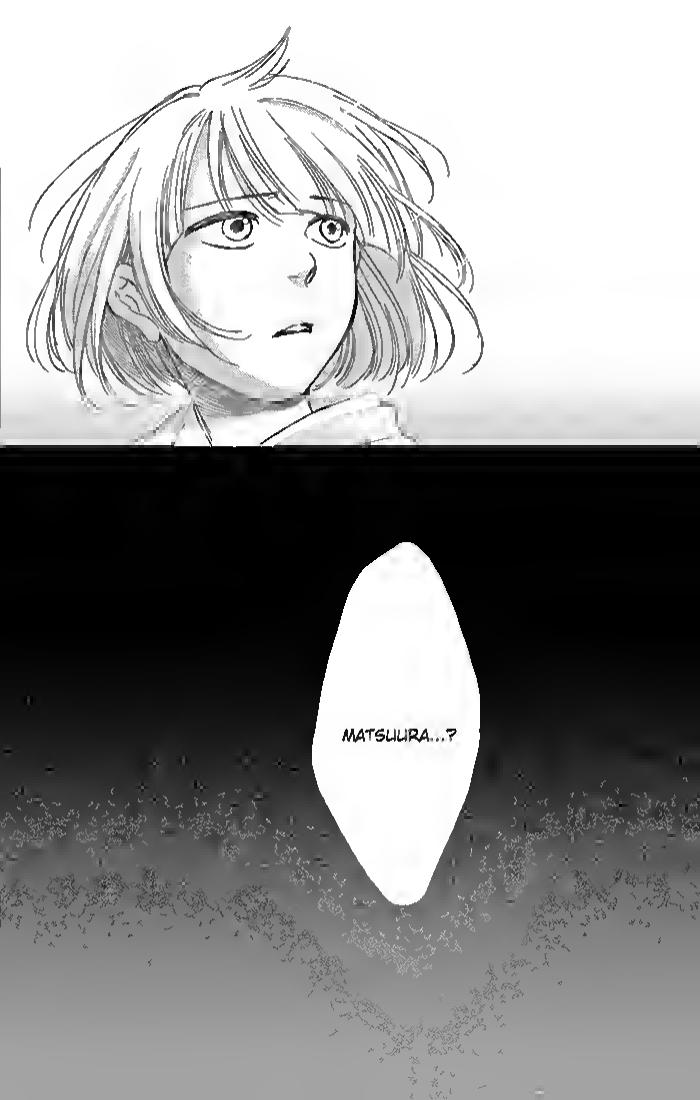
"Sakurai,"
"this script"
"is really interesting."
HOW IRONIC
THAT THE THING I WAS LOOKING FOR IS A SCREENPLAY I WROTE LONG AGO.

JUN...
SAKURAI-SAN!
...
pat
thump
NO...
EVEN YOU ARE LEAV-ING...

...DON'T GIVE ME THAT FACE.
Heh.
MISS LANDLADY.
STAYING AT THIS INN LOOKING FOR THE THING HE'S LOST.
HE WAS JUST LIKE YOU
THAT WAS HARD, WASN'T IT?
...WHAT FACE?

WHY?
ALL THIS INN DOES, IS TO EASE THEIR MINDS.
BUT STOP BRINGING IN GUESTS HERE, MATSUURA.
NOT REAL-LY.
FINDING WHAT THEY'RE LOOKING FOR HERE,
DOESN'T MEAN
THAT THEY WILL BE SAVED.
I'M—
SO DON'T..
BUT EVEN THEN, MISS LANDLADY.

HAPPY THAT YOU'RE HERE
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY—
AH, NO.
I'M JUST TALKING TO MYSELF
WELL THEN,
AND I—
I'LL BE BACK
DON'T WANT THIS STORY TO HAVE A BAD ENDING


MATSUURA...?

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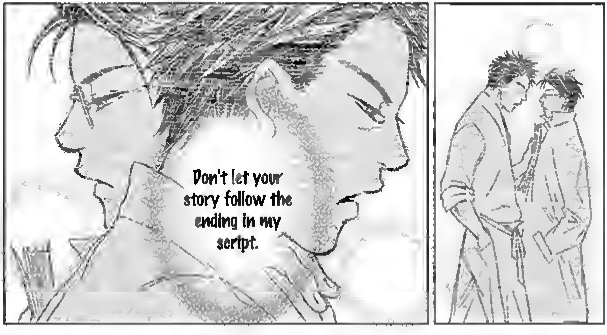
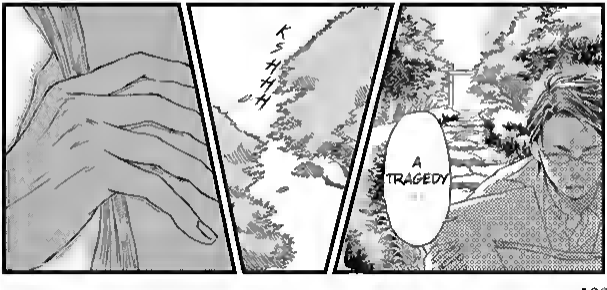
[Guest 11]
forget-me not
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

AS LONG AS YOU KEEP DOING THAT...
THEN, YES...
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD.

KSHHH


Don't let your story follow the ending in my script.


ｸｼｭｯ
A TRAGEDY

SFX FWIT

OKARU-SAAAN!
SHOULD I JUST LEAVE IT HERE?

THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF FUTONS ALL OVER THE INN.
fump fump
YES, JUST PUT IT THERE.

YOU REALLY LIKE WORKING US TOO HARD
SHEESH

THANKS, JUN
EVEN FUTONS NEED TO LAY OUT IN THE SUN EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE

MAKES ME FEEL THAT THE DAY IS COM-PLETELY ORDI-NARY
BUT DOING THIS,
...

HONESTLY, I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
HE'S REALLY GONE.
IT HASN'T BEEN THAT LONG SINCE SAKURAI-SAN LEFT.
HM?
IT FEELS STRANGE
I WAS SO STRESSED BECAUSE I COULDN'T FIND WHAT I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE LOOKING FOR.
BUT HE WAS THERE TO SUPPORT ME, JUST WHEN I NEEDED IT THE MOST
HIS PRESENCE ...
REALLY SAVED ME.
TO HAVE SOMEONE I WAS SO CLOSE TO LEAVE LIKE THAT—
IT'S SURPRISING.
HE WAS THE ONE WHO TOLD ME,
TO FIND OUT WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR AND LEAVE

...
YEAH...
SAKURAI-SAN...
ISN'T HERE ANY-MORE.
BUT EVERYONE HERE,
WILL FIND WHAT THEY ARE LOOKING FOR AND EVENTUALLY LEAVE.
!
YEAH...
THAT'S RIGHT. BUT...
HUH?
NO...

WHAT'S WRONG, OKARU-SAN?
THAT CAN'T BE...
HUH?
WHAT IS IT?!
HOW CAN THAT...
WHAT'S WRONG?!
THE LAND LA-DY
THE LAND LA-DY...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE LAND-LADY?
SHE IS...
CHASING MATSUURA-SAN...!

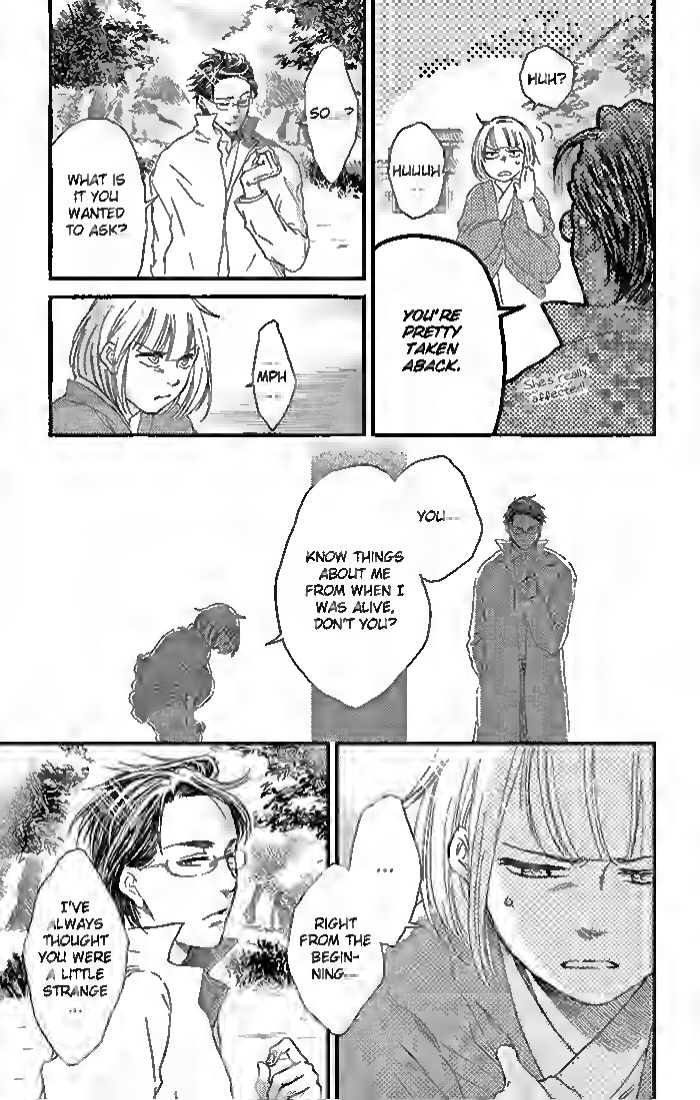
SFX: STOMP 4X
DON'T YOU RUN AWAY, MATSUURA! THERE'S SOMETHING I WANNA ASK!
NAAAAH!
YOU LOOK TOO SCARY!
Matsuura!
Naaaaah!
...
C'MON, OKARU-SAN, YOU SCARED ME...
It's the complete opposite of what usually happens
I THOUGHT SOME-THING TERRIBLE HAPPENED
WAIT!
I'VE NEVER SEEN HER LIKE THIS, JUN!
A storm!
A storm is coming!
WAAAH IT'S TRUE
THIS CER-TAINLY IS RARE
Will it really come, Jun? Can real people experience storms?

WHAT'S WITH YOU ALL OF A SUDDEN?
NO...
I...
HEY, OKARU-SAN
WHAT DOES "SELFISH" MEAN?
WHEN SAKURAI-SAN FOUND OUT WHAT HE WAS LOOKING FOR,
I WAS THERE.
HUH?
AND I HEARD THE LANDLADY TALKING TO SAKURAI-SAN
SO I WAS NEVER TORMENTED BY PAINFUL MEMORIES LIKE YOU HAVE.
AND I'M PRETTY CONTENT WITH STAYING HERE
BUT IT'S...

T/N: SELFISH IS "SAMOSHII" AND LONELY IS "SAMISHII" THEY ALMOST SOUND THE SAME

HEY, OKARU-SAN
DON'T YOU THINK, SELFISH-NESS AND LONELI-NESS,
ARE SOMEHOW SIMILAR...?
BUT I WAS WRONG.
Hah-h
STOP IT
MAYBE IT'S YOU, MISS LAND-LADY,
huff
THAT SHOULD BE GIVING UP?
huff
huff
huff
COME ON!
MATSU-URA!

CAUSE YOU'RE BEING BOTHERSOME TODAY, MISS LANDLADY!
Okay, I'll be going!
AH, HEY WAIT!
I DON'T KNOW HOW IT'S EVEN POSSIBLE THAT YOU'RE RUNNING OUT OF BREATH!
IT'S CAUSE YOU'RE RUNNING AROUND IN CIRCLES FOR NO REASON!
You're totally out of it!
Fffff
DON'T GO!
MATSUURA!
...
THAT'S NOT FAIR
HUH?
IF YOU SAY "DON'T GO", I WON'T BE ABLE TO GO ANYWHERE.
...HUH-


SO...?
WHAT IS IT YOU WANTED TO ASK?
HUH?
HUUUH...
YOU'RE PRETTY TAKEN ABACK.
She's really affected!
MPH
YOU...
KNOW THINGS ABOUT ME FROM WHEN I WAS ALIVE, DON'T YOU?
I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE A LITTLE STRANGE...
...
RIGHT FROM THE BEGIN-NING...

WHAT WERE YOU TO ME?
I
ふうぅぅぅ
...
WHAT ...
SO NOW YOU WANT TO RE-MEMBER THINGS FROM WHEN YOU WERE ALIVE?
A CHANGE OF HEART?
heh
IS THIS

TH...
THAT'S...
MISS LANDLADY,
EVEN THOUGH YOU NEVER CARED BEFORE?
AND NOW YOU FINALLY DO?
I AM A COMPLEX FEELING,
THAT YOU BOTH WANT AND DON'T WANT TO REMEMBER.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN...
MISS LAND-LADY

THE ATTENDANT...
A NEW GUEST HAS ARRIVED IN THEIR ROOM. PLEASE GO AND VISIT HER.
AH...
OKAY ...
I'M GOING.
step step
SHE'S GONE.
JUST WHEN IT WAS GETTING GOOD.
I HATE YOUR TIMING.
IF I DIDN'T BUTT IN JUST NOW,
YOU WOULD HAVE CROSSED THE GATE.

YOU REALLY ARE WISE
I GUESS TODAY'S GUEST IS A WINTER ONE
Ah
IT'S SNOWING

AH... YEAH.
ARE YOU DONE PLAYING TAG?
YOU WERE WATCHING
Snicker
Snicker
YEAH, THE WHOLE TIME
HMPH!
...
WHAT DID YOU WANT WITH MATSUURA-SAN?
IT WAS SO DIFFERENT FROM HOW YOU USUALLY ARE
HE KNOWS SOMETHING ABOUT ME FROM WHEN I WAS ALIVE

I WANTED TO
!
ASK HIM ABOUT IT...
...
SO... YOU REALLY DO WANT TO REMEMBER...
MATSUURA,
SAID THE SAME THING
HONESTLY
I DON'T KNOW

SO IT REALLY IS HARD FOR YOU, ISN'T IT?
LIVING IN THIS INN
...
I'M SORRY
...
AS SOON AS I ARRIVED IN THIS INN,
I IMMEDIATELY
THOUGHT OF YOU ONLY AS THE "LANDLADY"
I THOUGHT YOU WERE DETACHED FROM ALL THIS
SOMEONE WHO DIDN'T HAVE THE SAME TRIVIAL WORRIES THAT EVERYONE ELSE HERE HAD
I THOUGHT THAT WAS WHY YOU CAN HELP EVERYONE ELSE FIND WHAT THEY WERE LOOKING FOR

YOU'RE HUMAN, JUST LIKE US.
BUT,
THAT'S NOT TRUE, ISN'T IT?
I HAD THAT THOUGHT WHEN I SAW HOW SHOCKED JUN WAS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO SAKURAI-SAN
YOU ARE JUST LIKE SAKURAI-SAN, STAYING IN THIS INN, LOOKING FOR WHAT THEY'VE LOST
AND I WONDER HOW MUCH IT TROUBLES YOU.
DO YOU WANT TO GET BACK YOUR MEMORIES NOW BECAUSE YOU FIND IT TOO PAINFUL TO BE STAYING HERE?
IS IT BECAUSE, YOU'VE BEEN BURDENED WITH HANDLING EVERY ONE OF US IN THE STAFF?
MY LIFE IN THIS INN,

THE TIME PASSING BY QUIETLY...
THE CONSTANTLY CHANGING SEASONS...
IS A PEACEFUL ONE.
AND THE PEOPLE HERE AREN'T BAD AT ALL.
HELPING OTHER PEOPLE FIND WHAT THEY'RE LOOKING FOR,
ISN'T THAT MUCH TROUBLE FOR ME.
AT FIRST, I ONLY DID IT TO PASS THE TIME.
BUT THEN,
I REALIZED THAT THIS PEACEFUL FEELING,

WILL NEVER BECOME "HAPPINESS"
OF STAY-ING IN THIS INN,
BUT WHEN-EVER I'M TIRED
BUT...
YOU'RE ALWAYS THERE, OKARU-SAN
I CAN FEEL HOW MUCH YOU'RE IN PAIN EVERY TIME A GUEST COMES IN...

WITH YOUR LAP AS MY PILLOW.
MISS LAND-LADY, I
HAVE A DAUGHTER JUST LIKE YOU
MAYBE I'M JUST BIASED BECAUSE I'M HER MOTHER,
BUT SHE'S A VERY KIND PERSON.

FOR ME, YOU'RE ALSO A GOOD, KIND PERSON
AND THE LEAST I CAN DO,
IS TO OFFER YOU MY LAP TO REST ON.
I WILL
ALWAYS

I'm all right with not finding what I'm looking for.

Until I can be sure that her future will be all right.

IT'S IN THE WAY.
OW!
WHO WOULD LEAVE THIS THING LYING AROUND HERE?
WHY
I WON'T
HAHA'
THIS CAN'T BE TRUE
FALL FOR THAT AGAIN!
THERE YOU GO AGAIN, OKARU-SAN~~~
THIS IS...

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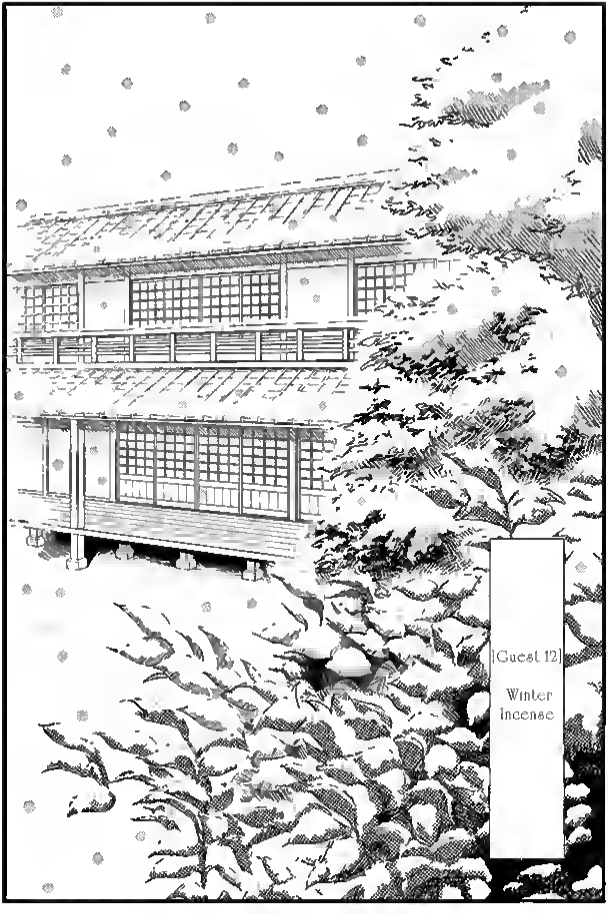
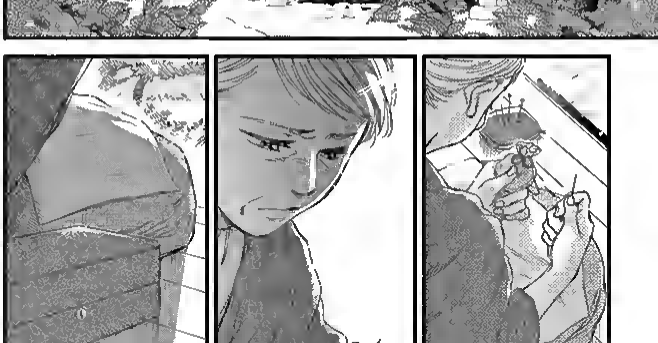

[Guest 12]
Winter
Incense



OUR GUEST HAS ALREADY LEFT,
BUT IT'S STILL "WINTER" HERE
BAN-TOU-SAN...
IT'S COLD, ISN'T IT?
!

MAY I ASK WHAT SEASON YOU PASSED AWAY IN?
I GUESS THE NEXT GUEST IS "WINTER" TOO.
WELL...
...
I ONLY REMEMBER...
WHEN I DIED...
I REALLY CAN'T REMEMBER...
...
I SEE.
THAT MY DAUGHTER DIED
ON A WINTER DAY.
BANTOU-SAN...

I FOUND WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR.
AM I GOING TO HAVE...
TO LEAVE THIS PLACE...?
I HAVEN'T OPENED IT, YET —
AND THE KEY?
IS IT, THIS BOX?

IF I DON'T OPEN IT..
MAYBE I CAN STAY HERE LONGER
I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE THIS INN, YET...
...
WHY?
...
BECAUSE I PROMISED.
PRO-MISED ?
I PRO-MISED THAT I WILL SUP-PORT THE LANDLADY
...
IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN THAT LONG SINCE SA-KURAI-SAN LEFT...
IF I LEFT NOW, IT WOULD BE ANOTHER SHOCK TO JUN AND THE LANDLADY

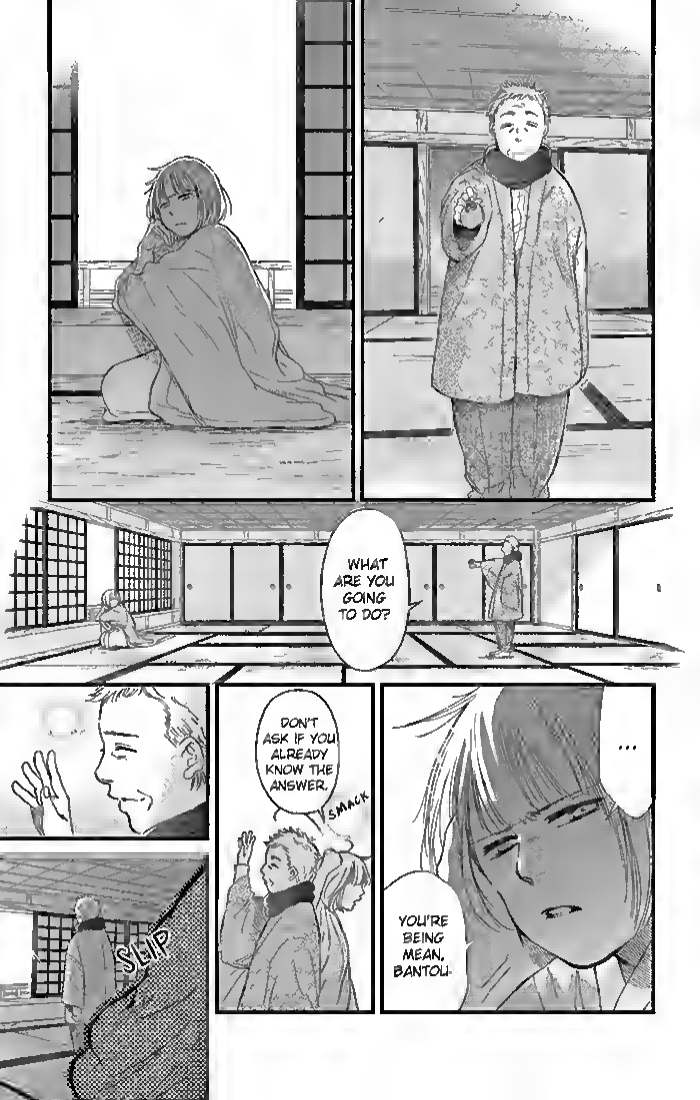
AND MORE THAN ANYTHING... I REALLY WANT TO STAY WITH HER.
SHE'S JUST A REGULAR...
KIND-HEARTED PERSON...
...
OKA-RU-SAN...
YOU'VE BEEN HERE FOR THE LANDLADY ALL THIS TIME.
AH...
BUT THAT ISN'T GOOD...

IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO ASK HER TO HELP YOU FIND THE KEY.
HUH ?!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ..?!
DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE?
WHAT ...
DO YOU MEAN ...?
IT'S TRUE THAT THE LANDLADY IS HUMAN, JUST LIKE US
SHE'S NOT VERY STRONG.
BUT...
SHE'S NOT WEAK EITHER
THE FACT THAT SHE'S THE LANDLADY HERE IS HER OWN DECISION.
YOU CAN LET GO.
ISN'T IT ALSO TIME FOR YOU TO THINK ABOUT YOURSELF?

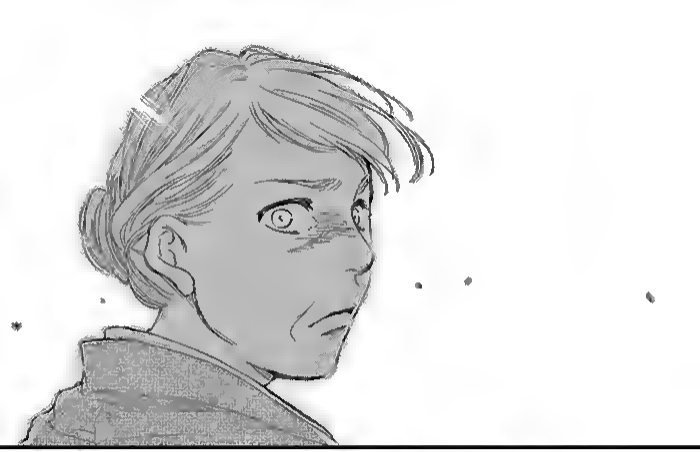
BUT IF EVERYONE JUST THOUGHT OF THEMSELVES...
IT WOULD HURT THE LAND-LADY...
FROM THE MOMENT YOU ENTERED THIS INN,
YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE PREOCCUPIED YOURSELF WITH OTHERS.
IT WAS A DECISION SHE MADE FOR HERSELF
!
BANTOU-SAN.
YOU ARE REALLY ...
TRYING TO PUSH ME AWAY ...
FROM THE VERY BEGINNING ...
I'VE HONESTLY THOUGHT THAT YOU'RE,
I CAN NEVER,
DO WHAT YOU'RE ASKING OF ME.

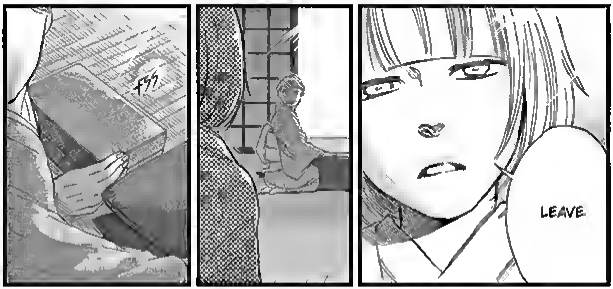
...
LESS "HUMAN-LIKE" THAN THE LANDLADY
SLIP
IF IT CAN CALM HER EVEN FOR JUST A BIT
IT'S A SCENT BAG I MADE FOR THE LAND-LADY
PLEASE GIVE IT TO HER
HERE

IF SHE SEES ME RIGHT NOW SHE'S GOING TO TAKE ONE LOOK AT ME AND FIND OUT ABOUT EVERY-THING.
AND SHE'LL FIND THE KEY FOR ME.
DON'T YOU WANT TO GIVE IT TO HER YOUR-SELF?
!
SUCH A CRUEL THING.
I DON'T WANT TO MAKE HER DO
IT'S PRO-BABLY POINT-LESS, BUT...
...


WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
...
YOU'RE BEING MEAN, BANTOU-
DON'T ASK IF YOU ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER.
SMACK
SLIP

SO YOU FOUND WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR




LEAVE.

Hahn
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN HEARING FROM BANTOU-SAN—?
WHAT—
DO YOU MEAN—?

I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD BE TRUSTING THAT MAN TOO MUCH
MORE IMPORTANTLY, MISS LANDLADY
I HAVEN'T FOUND ANYTHING
IT'S PROBABLY SOME MISUNDERSTANDING
TAKE IT OUT
OKARU-SAN
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HIM THAT'S
I SAID NO!!
OKARU-SAN
step
NO

...
BE-
CAUSE
IF I
LEAVE,
YOU'RE
GOING
TO CRY
AGAIN.
...
I HAVE
NEVER CRIED
NOT ONCE
THAT'S
NOT
TRUE!!
PLEASE
DON'T LIE
TO ME...
YOU
WERE
CRYING
DEEP
IN YOUR
HEART YOU
ALWAYS
WERE...

OKARU-SAN...
I JUST CAN'T LEAVE YOU HERE
LIKE THIS
I WASN'T
YOUR DAUGHTER
I AM NOT
SO I'M ASKING YOU TO ONLY THINK
ABOUT SAVING YOURSELF

...
I...
KNOW THAT...
BUT THEN...
ALL YOU'VE DONE IS LOOK FOR OTHER PEOPLE'S LOST THINGS.
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU?
WHO IS GOING TO SAVE YOU?
LET ME STAY WITH YOU AT LEAST
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY, OKARU-SAN

HUH?
SLIDE
IT'S ALL THE MORE REA-SON
SLIP
SHIVER
WHY
TO FIND

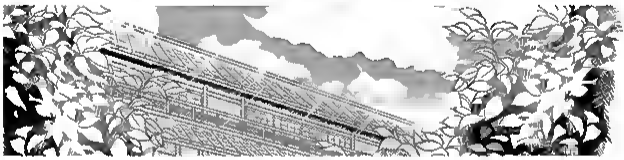
WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.
MISS LANDLADY! STOP!

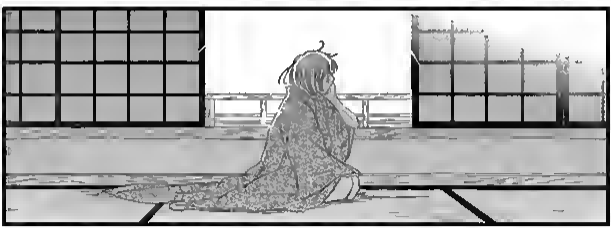
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SOUND
...
SHE WAS A BIG CRY-BABY

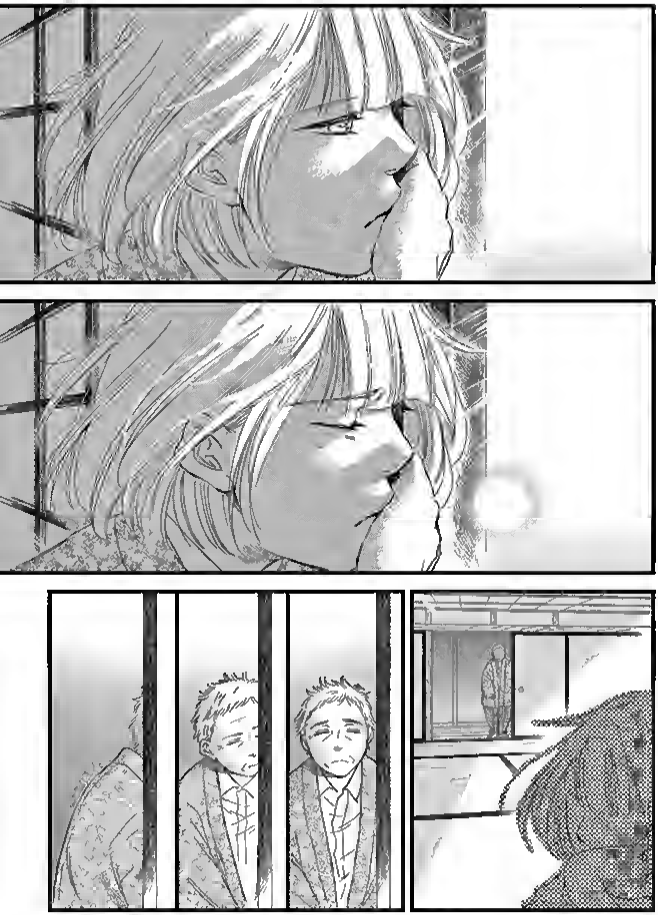
SHE WOULD ALWAYS STOP CRYING
WHEN SHE WAS A BABY I LET HER LISTEN TO THIS MUSIC BOX WHENEVER SHE CRIED...
IT BECAME SO TOUGH FOR ME TO LISTEN TO IT AGAIN AFTER SHE DIED FROM AN ILLNESS.
THEN IT BECAME A HABIT EVEN AS SHE GREW UP. WHEN SHE'D HEAR THIS SOUND..
SO ONE DAY, OUT OF IMPULSE, I JUST THREW AWAY THE KEY.
MOMM
I FELT LIKE I JUST THREW HER MEMORIES AWAY.
BUT I IMMEDIATELY REGRETTED IT
...
NOW THAT I'VE LISTENED TO IT AGAIN AFTER SO LONG
THE MUSIC REALLY IS NICE
AH...
BUT WELL...

I JUST WISHED,
THAT SOMEHOW,
THIS MUSIC COULD ALSO STOP THE TEARS IN YOUR HEART ...

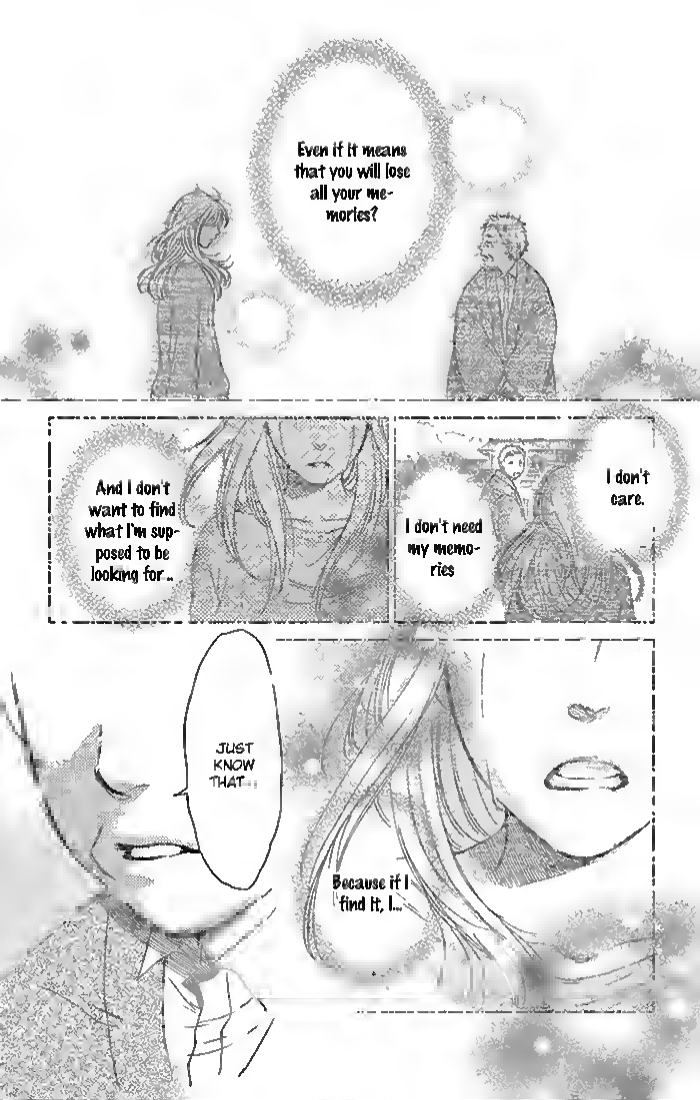
IT'S REALLY TOO BAD
THAT I CAN'T EVEN OFFER YOU MY LAP TO SLEEP ON ANYMORE...



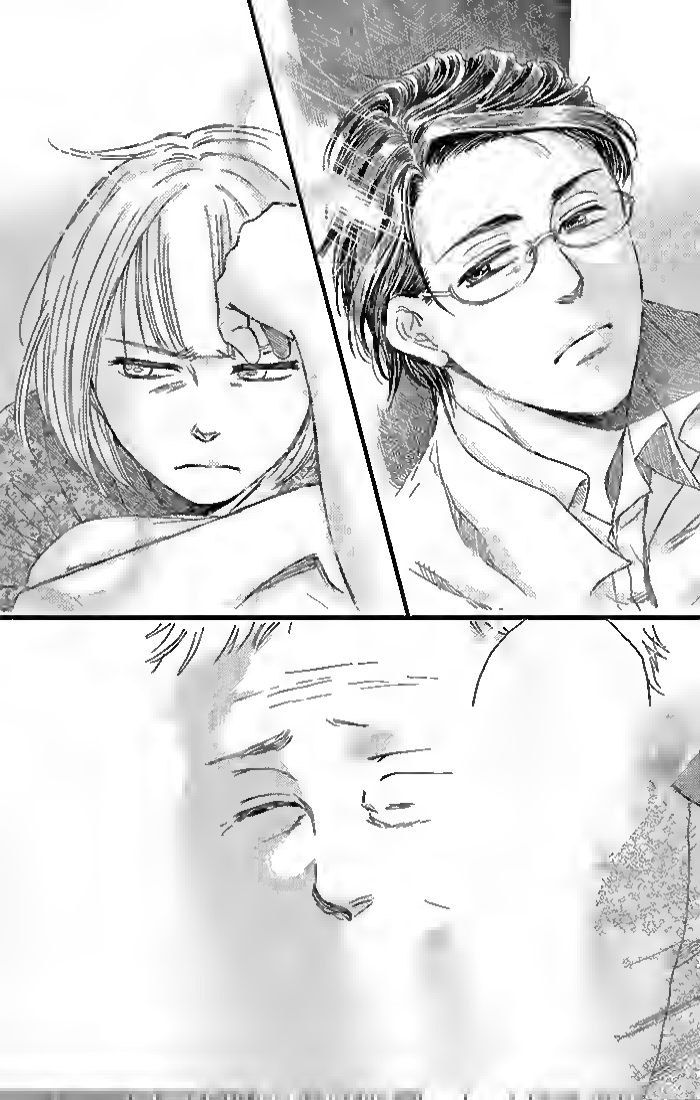




Are you...
sure about this?

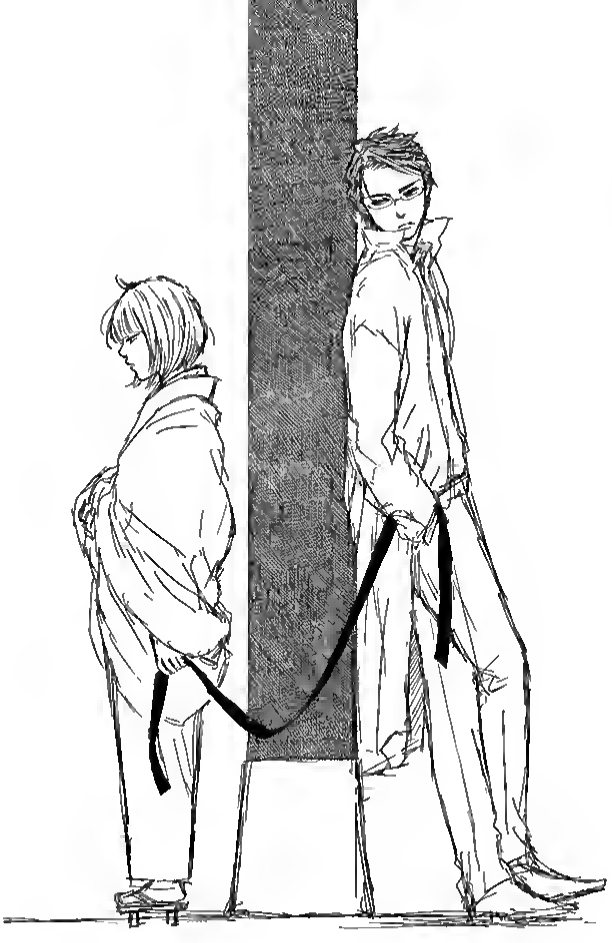

Even if it means that you will lose all your memories?
And I don't want to find what I'm supposed to be looking for...
I don't need my memories
I don't care.
JUST KNOW THAT...
Because if I find it, I...

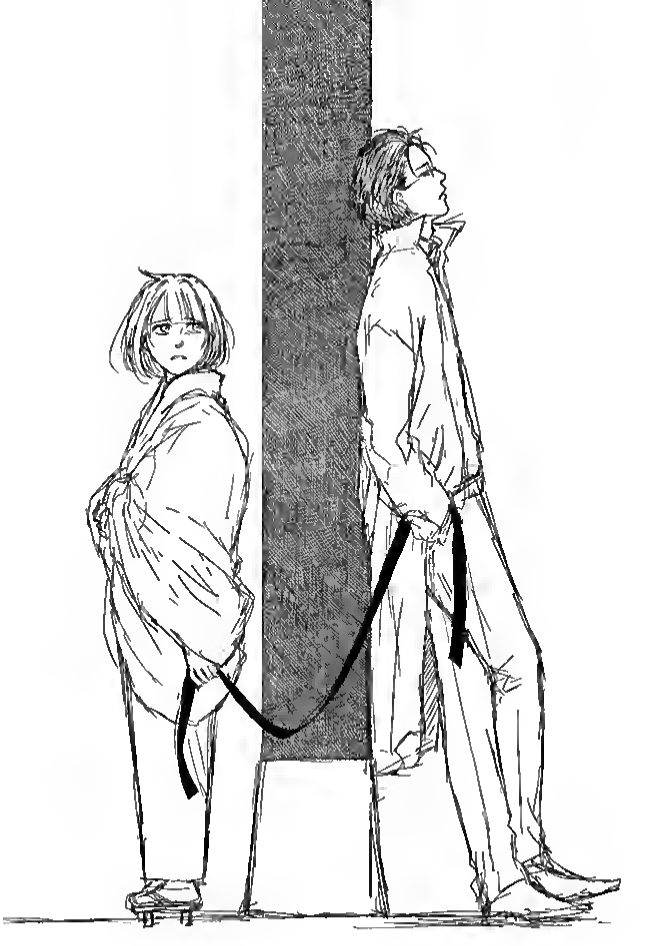
Shoujo Sense



"SAKI-SAN".

取材／妻籠宿(長野県)





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